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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly resolution 52/107 of 12 December 1997, the interim report prepared by Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

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Annex

Report on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/107

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I. Introduction

1. This report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/107 of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography with all necessary assistance to make the full discharge of her mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session.

2. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-fourth session, in its resolution 1998/78 of 22 April 1998, welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1998/101 and Add.1 and 2), requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance and urged all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur with comprehensive reporting to make the full discharge of her mandate possible. The Commission also invited the Special Rapporteur to continue to cooperate closely with other relevant United Nations organs and bodies and to convey her findings to the Commission.

II. Working methods and activities

A. Working methods

3. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur comprises three elements – sale, prostitution, and pornography – which are, *prima facie,* distinct and separate. However, most aspects of the three concerns are inextricably intertwined within the framework of commercial sexual exploitation.

4. The abuse that many children suffer was brought to the attention of the international community on an unprecedented scale during the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, from 27 to 31 August 1996. In her recent reports to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur has focused her mandate on this subject, in particular through a consideration of the roles of the justice system, the media and education and their impact upon the protection of children.

5. The increased international attention being given to the issues of sexual exploitation has heightened awareness of the extent to which children in virtually all areas of the world are being sold or trafficked for that purpose and other purposes. International law concerning the trafficking of human beings generally has been evolving throughout the twentieth century, but the recent widespread reports of women and children being trafficked for prostitution have demonstrated the inadequacy of the current legal regime and response mechanisms which purport to address such atrocities.

6. In order to obtain a more comparative overview of developments relating to the sale and trafficking of children, the Special Rapporteur, in July 1998, sent a circular to all Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, soliciting information to be used in her reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, on the following:

(a) Identified paths within the country through which children are trafficked: the origin of the children and their final destination;

(b) Identified international trafficking routes, which may originate in, pass through, or terminate in the country in question;

(c) Profiles of the children involved and of those involved in the trafficking, such as their nationalities, ages, and information concerning their background circumstances;

(d) The purposes for which children are trafficked – i.e., for sexual exploitation, illegal adoption, for use in labour or sports, for use as organ donors, or any other purpose;

(e) Whether the children are part of a general trafficking path along with commodities, such as drugs or firearms;

(f) The provisions that are made in terms of prevention/extrication/repatriation/rehabilitation of the child victims after trafficking.

7. The Special Rapporteur would like to express her appreciation to those Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies, and non-governmental organizations that have already provided some very useful and comprehensive information, and she urges all other States and intergovernmental organizations to provide her with relevant information which might be used in her forthcoming report to the Commission on Human Rights. The Special Rapporteur would also like to emphasize that the information and materials sent to her up to the time of writing the present report will be discussed in detail in her report to the Commission.

B. Activities

8. Since the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur has carried out one field mission. In November 1997, she visited Mexico (Mexico City (D.F.), Xalapa and Puerto de Veracruz (Veracruz), Cancún (Quintana-Roo), Ciudad Juárez (Chihuahua) and Tijuana (Baja California)). The report of that mission is in document E/CN.4/1998/101/Add.2.

9. In March 1998 the Special Rapporteur attended the International Summit of Sexually Exploited: Out from the Shadows, held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, from 7 to 12 March 1998. The Canadian Summit was a follow-up to the 1996 World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and was a unique initiative in that it provided young people who had been victims of commercial sexual exploitation with a forum in which to share their experiences and develop proposals and recommendations for change. The delegates spent the first three days telling their stories and developing a vision for change through artistic expression. Finally they framed their experiences and stories in their own Declaration and Agenda for Action, which was presented and discussed during the final two days with representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

10. The way in which the Congress proceedings evolved demonstrates that the process by which efforts to combat commercial sexual exploitation is structured is as important as the end product. Those who attended the Summit were left in no doubt as to the vital role that is played in the process by the participation of the child victims themselves, and the Special Rapporteur has been encouraged to hear of similar initiatives allowing for child participation being considered in other regions in the world.

11. In April 1998 the Special Rapporteur was invited to address the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session, in Vienna. While issues pertaining to juvenile justice are still high on the agenda of criminal justice concerns generally, she used the opportunity to raise her fears that the child victim in the justice system is often extremely vulnerable and at risk of multiple victimization, from the time of reporting abuse up to, and even beyond, the time of sentencing of the offenders.

12. In September 1998, the Special Rapporteur is invited to participate as co-rapporteur of the Conference on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Baltic Sea Region, to be held in Tallinn, Estonia. The Conference is intended to be the first step in a process that will raise awareness of the issues, create the conditions for an exchange of experiences, and establish networks of decision makers and experts in the region.

13. In September 1998, the Special Rapporteur will carry out a field visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at the invitation of the Government. She has been invited by the Government of Belgium to carry out a mission to that country, which she intends to do at the earliest possible opportunity. The mission reports will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session.

14. In October 1998, the Special Rapporteur will participate in the Second National Conference on Children, Young People and Domestic Violence, which is to be held in Brisbane. The aim of the conference is to strategize about ways to respond effectively to the needs of children and young people affected by domestic violence.

III. International developments relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

15. On 17 January 1998, the Global March against Child Labour, a six-month-long intercontinental march, took off in Manila, Philippines, with over 15,000 people from different parts of the world, calling for an end to the economic exploitation of children. The March covered over 80,000 kilometres through more than 80 countries in Asia, the Americas, Africa and Europe. Those involved held rallies, performed dances and traditional songs to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding child labour, and converged in Geneva in June 1998, at the start of the annual meeting of the ILO to define new standards on extreme forms of child labour. After a week of negotiations, a draft child labour convention was agreed upon, the intention of which is to eliminate the most intolerable forms of child labour which include slavery, the use of a child for prostitution or pornography, and the use of a child in illegal activities such as drug trafficking.

16. In May 1998, Interpol and ECPAT (Global Network to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) hosted a meeting of experts on child pornography at the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France. The experts, comprising law policy makers, law enforcers, Internet service providers and non-governmental organizations, considered methods of combating this abuse of children and ways of implementing recommended solutions.

17. The International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO), at its annual meeting in June 1997, agreed to give full support to the international tourism campaign to end child prostitution. Regional cooperation in the greater Mekong area on the promotion and protection of children's rights was discussed at a joint consultation of government and political authorities and non-governmental organizations, held in Thailand in April 1997, where it was proposed that a new United Nations convention or protocol was needed to protect children from being trafficked across borders. The World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of the Child held its second Congress in San Francisco in June 1997. Several panels discussed extraterritorial laws and laws governing child pornography.

18. Defence for Children International (Australia) held a Global Gathering on Children's Rights in April 1997; child prostitution was one of the issues discussed. A European Centre for Missing and Exploited Children based on the model of the successful Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States, was launched in Belgium on 26 June 1997.

Significant regional and country developments

Eastern Europe

19. In Eastern Europe the number of prostitutes is reported to be increasing at an alarming rate. Prostitution has become a way of making money quickly, and the child sex industry is thriving with the increasing arrival of tourists, many from Finland and Sweden. A broad range of nationalities is attracted to peep shows of very young performers, the easy availability of young prostitutes, and the very open soliciting which occurs in the hotels of St. Petersburg and Moscow. UNICEF estimates suggest that some 200,000 children live on the streets of ex-Soviet-bloc countries.

Central America

20. With the recent restrictions and operations against sex tourism in Thailand and other Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, a growing number of "sex tourists" are visiting Central America. Estimates from the non-governmental organization Casa Alianza suggest that over 2,000 children from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua are regularly sexually exploited in approximately 600 bars and brothels operating in Guatemala's capital. In the same areas, many allegations of "baby trafficking" have been made, whereby babies born to prostitutes have been "bought" from their mothers, often with the complicity of high-level public officials.

Mexico

21. In Mexico, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the creation of the Comisión Nacional para Prevenir, Atender y Erradicar el Fenómeno de la Venta de Niños, la Prostitución Infantil y la Utilización de Niños en la Pornografía. The aims of the National Commission include raising public awareness about commercial sexual exploitation of children, carrying out a full assessment of the problem, and introducing appropriate preventative measures and adequate legislation.

Sweden

22. In May 1998, Sweden took its first step towards outlawing the possession and dissemination of child pornography when its Parliament approved legislation that would amend the Constitution to make it illegal to possess, procure, import or export child pornography. The proposal would take effect by amending the press and freedom of speech mandates to specifically exclude child pornography. The Special Rapporteur welcomes this step and calls upon the Government of Sweden to take all measures to ensure that the proposal is incorporated into Swedish constitutional law on the proposed date of 1 January 1999.

France

23. The Special Rapporteur notes the new approach being taken through the creation, by the International Bureau for Children's Rights, of the International Tribunal for Children's Rights. The Tribunal held its first public hearings in October 1997, on the effectiveness of extraterritorial legislation in response to the international dimension of child sexual exploitation. Several countries and non-governmental organizations made presentations in Paris before the Tribunal, the aims of which are to conduct inquiries and propose concrete solutions to violations of children's rights. The message conveyed by the first hearings was that the international community will no longer tolerate the situation whereby a national of one country will travel abroad to engage in sexual crimes against children, evade criminal prosecution in the country where the crimes were committed, and expect to return home with full impunity. The second hearings of the Tribunal were held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in May 1998, with the objective of examining a specific country experience in its efforts to curb child sexual exploitation.

Italy

24. The sexual abuse and murder of a small boy near the city of Naples in 1997 caused revulsion and outrage in Italy. In November 1998 police arrested three men in connection with the crime, and according to the confession made by one of them, they had dismembered the nine-year-old boy and burned his body parts. The murder of the boy highlighted the urgent need for action both nationally and on a international scale to combat highly organized child pornography rings and access to paedophile material on the Internet.[1]

Germany

25. In February 1998, German police raided apartments and refugee homes to break up a gang believed responsible for forcing young Eastern European women, mainly from Poland and Russia, into virtual slavery as prostitutes. Two of the 24 women freed had been kept locked up for seven months without ever seeing daylight.

IV. Sale and trafficking

A. International legal framework

26. Throughout the twentieth century, a succession of treaties have been adopted at the international level to combat trafficking and related offences, such as slavery, forced labour, and creation and dissemination of pornography. These statutes have concentrated most notably on trafficking of women and children for the purposes of prostitution.

27. The 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others consolidated four previous treaties: the 1904 International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic; the 1910 International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic; the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and the 1933 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age. The 1949 Convention obliges State parties to punish any person who "to gratify the passions of another, procures, entices or leads away another person for purposes of prostitution" or "exploits the prostitution of another person". Under the Convention such offences are to be regarded as extraditable or punishable by the courts of the home State of the offender, where he has returned after the commission of the offence. The Convention sets out procedures for combating international trafficking in persons (especially women and children) for the purposes of prostitution.

28. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex) marked a significant evolution in international law. It contains important safeguards against illegal adoption and transfer of children from their parents. State parties to the Convention undertake to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except where such a separation is necessary for the best interests of the child (articles 9 and 10). Articles 20 and 21 ensure that, in the case of a child who does not reside with his parents, it is the best interests of the child which remain paramount, with due regard paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background. Article 21 further provides that international adoption must not involve "improper financial gain".

29. Article 11 obliges States to take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad, through the promotion of bilateral and multilateral agreements, and more explicitly, article 35 calls upon States to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

30. The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoptions of 1993 was approved on 29 May 1993 by the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and entered into force on 1 May 1995. It is the most serious attempt to address issues of commercialism and malpractice attendant to intercountry adoptions as it prohibits improper financial gain from intercountry adoption, specifying that only costs and expenses, including reasonable professional fees, may be charged or paid.

B. Definitions

1. Sale of children

31. In order to gain a clearer perception of the meaning of "sale" in its commercial application, it may be useful to take a look at some definitions of "sale" in general. Black's Law Dictionary[2] defines it as "a contract between two parties, called, respectively, the 'seller' (or vendor) and the 'buyer' (or purchaser), by which the former, in consideration of the payment or promise of payment of a certain price in money, transfers to the latter the title and the possession of property".

32. The Oxford Dictionary defines "sale" as "the transfer by common consent of the ownership of a thing or an interest in land, or in incorporeal property, from one person to another in exchange for a price in money".

33. No consensus currently exists with respect to the sale of children. The traditional concept of sale as exemplified above is that it pertains only to property – real, personal or incorporeal – and that the consideration is always price in money. It is difficult to have a definition of "sale of children" since children are not, and should not be, legally and/or morally, the objects of trade or commerce. The reality of such sales, however, proves the need for a definition.

34. Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn, the first Special Rapporteur on the mandate, defined "sale of children" as "the transfer of a child from one party (including biological parents, guardians and institutions) to another, for whatever purpose, in exchange for financial or other reward or compensation".

35. The incumbent Special Rapporteur, in her first report (A/50/456), defined "sale of children" as "the transfer of parental authority over and/or physical custody of a child to another on a more or less permanent basis in exchange for financial or other reward or consideration". This definition was adopted by her in order to exclude transactions that are strictly on a temporary basis, as when a child is "rented" out, in order to obviate confusion as to whether the transaction constitutes sale or pimping, for example.

36. The confusion created by the lack of a clear definition as to what constitutes the "sale" of a child has not helped the members of the Working Group on the Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in dealing with the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. One position taken by the negotiators is that a "sale" must be for the purpose of sexual exploitation; the opposing view is that it is dangerous to limit the definition of the term in that way.

2. Trafficking of persons

37. Black's Law Dictionary defines traffic in general as "commerce; trade; sale or exchange of merchandise, bills, money, and the like. The passing or exchange of goods or commodities from one person to another for an equivalent in goods or money. The subjects of transportation on a route, as persons or goods; the passing to and fro of persons, animals, vehicles, or vessels, along a route of transportation, as along a street, highways, etc." It also defines "trafficking" as "trading or dealing in certain goods and commonly used in connection with illegal narcotic sales".

38. There is as yet no internationally recognized definition of "trafficking in persons". The preamble of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949), which provides: "Whereas prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community, ..."assimilates trafficking with prostitution. The Convention does not contain any real definition of trafficking. However, it defines the trafficker under Article 1, which provides:

> "Article 1. The Parties to the present Convention agree to punish any person who, to gratify the passions of another:
>
> (1) Procures, entices or leads away, for purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person;
>
> (2) Exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person."

39. Recently, however, "trafficking" has been expanded to refer not only to sexual exploitation but also to a wider range of offences.

40. Thus, the General Assembly, in resolution 49/166, defined "trafficking of persons" as the "illicit and clandestine movement of persons across national and international borders, largely from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition, with the end goal of forcing women and girl children into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour, false marriages, clandestine employment, and false adoption".

41. In the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, "trafficking" was taken to refer to the illegal moving and selling of human beings across countries and continents in exchange for financial or other compensation.

42. The Global Alliance Against the Trafficking of Women (GAATW), on the other hand, defines "trafficking" as "the recruitment and transportation of (a) person(s) within and across national borders, by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of actual or perceived authority arising from a relationship, or deception, in order to subject them to the actual and unlawful power of (an) other person(s)".

43. Another useful definition is that advanced by the Netherlands Advisory Committee on Human Rights and

Foreign Policy,[3] as follows: "The traffic in person could be defined as transporting a person from one place to another in order to subject him or her to the actual and unlawful power of other persons by means of using violence or the threat of violence or by using a position of authority arising from a relationship or by misleading the other person."

44. Most recently, the Transnational Training Seminar on Trafficking in Women, held in Budapest from 20 to 24 June 1998, promulgated the following definition: "Trafficking consists of all acts involved in the recruitment or transportation of persons within or across borders, involving deception, coercion or force, debt bondage or fraud, for the purpose of placing persons in situations of abuse or exploitation, such as forced prostitution, slavery-like practices, battering or extreme cruelty, sweatshop labour or exploitative domestic servitude."

45. The Special Rapporteur considers this last definition to be the most workable, although she expresses reservations as to whether trafficking always places the victim in a worse position than that held previously.

46. From the above summary of working definitions, there emerge some basic elements which seem to be widely agreed upon. They include some degree of involuntariness on the part of the person being trafficked, either through the employment of deceit, coercion or actual force, abuse of authority, confiscation of travel documents, or debt bondage. One question on which the above definitions are in dispute is whether trafficking for other than illicit reasons should give rise to criminal culpability.

47. The Special Rapporteur firmly believes that, as in the sale of a person, trafficking of a person reduces that person to the level of a commercial commodity and is therefore inherently condemnable, regardless of the ultimate purpose for which it is carried out. Thus, the argument that, in most cases of adoption, the children end up in much improved living conditions, would not in any way justify the trafficking of babies and children. Another issue that still remains unsettled is whether trafficking necessarily involves movement or transportation from one place to another, and if so, if it has to be across borders.

C. Discussion

48. As has been proposed, the sale and the trafficking of children are inextricably linked. The lack of concrete definitions, however, makes it very difficult in most instances to determine whether a particular transaction is a sale or trafficking. In most cases, elements of both are involved, but there is no line where one ends and the other begins. For this reason, and for the purposes of this report, the issues of sale and trafficking will not be treated as distinct and separate categories. A line must be drawn, however, between trafficking and illegal migration. Although there is some similarity between the processes of recruitment for both trafficking and migration, trafficking, as it is currently understood, involves some element of involuntariness, either through deception or by force or intimidation. With respect to children, this element of involuntariness would be for the most part assumed, regardless of any actual consent of the child to the transaction.

1. Identified aims of trafficking

Commercial sexual exploitation

49. The Special Rapporteur has dealt extensively with issues pertaining to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in her previous reports, including the causes and effects thereof.

Adoption

50. Another cause of trafficking, especially of babies and very young children, is intercountry adoption. The increase in such adoptions results from the shortage of children available for adoption in most developed countries. Rising infertility rates in some countries, the widespread use of contraceptives, legalization of abortion, and changing mores which now enable single mothers to keep their children are factors which have drastically reduced the number of children who would otherwise be available for adoption locally. UNICEF estimates suggest that the demand is about 50 applicants for every healthy infant. Hence, for a growing number of couples, intercountry adoption has become the only viable alternative. Furthermore, the growing will to keep children living in very difficult circumstances with their birth families and in their native environments also plays a part in increasing the demand.

51. The "need" for children has put pressure on sending countries to respond quickly to the growing demand often without having the necessary infrastructure and mechanisms to proceed properly. This situation has led to abuses and the creation of a veritable international market for adoptable children. Trafficking of children for the purpose of adoption is continuously increasing, and in some countries it is reported that the fees charged by intermediaries to handle adoptions range from $5,000 to $30,000 per child.

52. However, there is a distinction – although often blurred – between trafficking and illegal practices in intercountry

legitimate, the adoptive parents, in order to accelerate the process, often pay sums of money to intermediaries, people who are on the periphery of the arrangements of the adoption, such as doctors, lawyers or employees in orphanages. In such a case the adoption remains legal, despite the illegal practices involved.

53. However, "trafficking" in this context arises when the adoption can be compared to a sale – for example, when a child is kidnapped or given for adoption by a relative without the prior consent of the parents. Concerning the parents' authorization for adoption, special attention should be given to the situation of unmarried or especially poor women, who, because of their financial situation or the social unacceptability of their circumstances, may be forced or pressured into giving up their children for adoption.

54. The flow of intercountry adoption and of this type of trafficking is from South and Central America, Eastern Europe and South-east Asia to the western world. For example, in Australia in recent years more than 5,000 children have been adopted from countries as diverse as Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Mauritius, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.[4] Over 20,000 children from Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America are adopted by foreigners from developed countries each year, and the demand for healthy babies is growing rapidly. Those who argue that intercountry adoption is exploitative complain that it encourages the purchase of children, which in turn thwarts the development of children's services in the developing world and is destructive of a child's heritage.

55. It should be noted that, even though intercountry adoptions are the primary source of profit for the criminal organizations involved, the clandestine selling of children for adoption also operates within countries.

56. It is noteworthy that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had marked a radical shift in terms of the aim of the adoption process. Whereas adoption used to be viewed primarily as a way of satisfying the needs of and providing happiness to the adoptive parents, under the Convention, the best interests of the child are now of primary consideration.

Labour

57. Although trafficking of children is most commonly associated with prostitution, many children are in fact recruited as a cheap source of labour. In many developing countries, labour "contractors" pay rural families in advance for their children whom they take away to work in cities. Even if such children are not literally enslaved, they are extremely vulnerable when they are away from their home environment. Many of them become domestic workers and are often victims of sexual abuse. Although child labour is most commonly thought to be a problem in developing countries, children are now being trafficked from countries such as Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine into Hungary, Poland, the Baltic States and the capitals of Western Europe for such purposes.

58. Many children who are trafficked for the purposes of labour end up working in construction or in factories, exposed to a multitude of health risks, many of which prove fatal. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that in the construction industry, 26 per cent of working children suffer from job-related injuries or illnesses, including beatings from their employers. Children who work in agriculture often suffer the effects of poisoning from the pesticides used.

59. A new programme to curb trafficking of children for labour exploitation in Asian countries has been launched by the ILO. Targeting children under 18 who are at risk and are victims of trafficking in the Mekong basin and in South Asia, the new programme covers Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Priority target groups include girls, children from ethnic minorities and tribal populations, and children under 12 years of age.

60. In Africa, the ILO has warned that, if current trends continue, there will be 100 million African child labourers by the year 2015. Some live and work in slave-like conditions, are forced into prostitution, or end up on the streets of cities far away from their families.

Criminal activities

61. Of the many and varied categories of "labour" for which children are trafficked, some are illegal per se, regardless of the age of the actors. The Special Rapporteur has received reports of organized crime networks using children in various capacities. In Canada it was recently reported[5] that a large drug ring is luring children from Honduras to Vancouver, where they are being turned into street-corner crack dealers. According to the Vancouver police, as many as 100 Honduran children have been smuggled into Canada. The Honduran smugglers pay their transportation costs and help them across the Canadian border. Once in Vancouver, the ringleaders allegedly set the children up in apartments and help them file refugee claims and sign up for welfare. In return, the children, some as young as 11, are forced to deal drugs on the street to pay off their "debt" to the smugglers. The Special Rapporteur welcomes reports that British Columbia's Ministry of

Children and Families is working with the police and immigration officials to find ways to repatriate the children but expresses her concern that any decision regarding the children will reflect their best interests and in no way define them as criminals.

62. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports[6] that representatives of crime networks recruit street children in Cambodia by giving them glue to sniff, creating an addiction and, thereby, a dependency upon the recruiters. The children are then taken to Thailand, where the glue-sniffing serves the purpose of decreasing the child's inhibitions about committing criminal acts. The IOM report concedes that little information is available about the specific purposes and operation of these criminal groups.

Mendicancy

63. Children are not always deceived or abducted by the recruiters of beggars. They are often attracted by stories about the easy money that they can earn in big cities or tourist resorts. Even when most of their earnings are taken from them, the mere fact that they are able to eat every day may represent a significant improvement over their previous life. At the same time however, the recruiters and leaders of the begging rackets can earn a small fortune from their syndicate of beggars.

64. Handicapped children are particular targets for the recruiters of beggars who believe that the handicap will induce sympathy in the giver. That belief puts the child beggar at serious risk of being deliberately maimed in order to increase his or her earning potential. In 1997, a large number of Bengali children were deported to India from Saudi Arabia, where they had been taken on the pretence that they would visit Mecca. Instead they remained in the country, forced to beg every day from the many pilgrims there. On their return to India, it was discovered that several of them had broken limbs.

Armed conflict

65. The alarming trend of increased participation of children in armed conflicts has led to a situation whereby children are abducted and forcibly conscripted for that purpose. The development and proliferation of lightweight automatic weapons has made it possible for very young children to bear and use arms. Many more children abducted and trafficked into war zones are being used in indirect ways which are difficult to assess – for instance, as cooks, messengers and porters. Children have also been used for mine clearance, spying and suicide bombing.

66. The Special Rapporteur remains concerned about reports of continuing abductions of children in northern Uganda. In June 1998, members of the Lord Resistance Army allegedly abducted 40 school girls from a boarding school in Kalongo, 400 kilometres north-east of Kampala. Estimates suggest that the Resistance Army has abducted between 8,000 and 10,000 children from northern Uganda over the past 11 years, marching their child captives to rebel base camps in neighbouring southern Sudan. Many children die from exhaustion, starvation or disease during the march or are murdered because they try to escape or cannot keep up. On arrival at the base camps, both boys and girls are given military training and forced to take part in hostilities, carry heavy loads and act as personal servants to the rebels. Girls are often given as "wives" to the commanders.

Sports

67. The Special Rapporteur continues to express her concerns that in the Gulf States, mainly in the United Arab Emirates, the lives of young boys are being put at risk for the entertainment of spectators at camel races. For many years the boys, sometimes as young as four years of age, have been trafficked from countries in South Asia to supply the demand for camel jockeys. The children are attached to the camels' backs with cords, and the camels are made to run down a track. Children who fall risk being trampled to death by the other camels on the track, and if they refuse to ride the camels, they are beaten and forced to ride regardless.

68. In 1993, the Camel Jockey Association of the United Arab Emirates finally prohibited the use of children as jockeys. New evidence, however, clearly indicates that the rules are being blatantly ignored. In February 1998, 10 Bangladesh boys, aged between five and eight, were rescued in India while being smuggled to become camel jockeys. The boys had been lured away from their poor families on the promise of high-paying jobs.[7] Also in 1998, airport officials rescued two boys who were being taken to Dubai from Sri Lanka by two men who were later charged with their kidnapping.

69. Information from Anti-Slavery International suggests that new trafficking routes are opening up from north-east and west Africa. In October 1997, police intercepted traffickers in Mali taking young Mauritanian children to the Gulf, and there are reports of young Sudanese camel jockeys working in Qatar.

Marriage

70. Although more likely to involve women, the trafficking of "mail-order brides" may involve girls as young as 13.

Men who are looking for women as servants and sex partners are the catalyst for million-dollar businesses, many of which place advertisements quite openly in national and local newspapers in various countries. Mail-order bride agents have recently started using the Internet as their preferred marketing tool, since it reaches the target audience of wealthy men from western countries.

71. The agencies describe themselves as "introduction services", but their commercial interests in bride trafficking, sex tours and prostitution are thinly veiled by such descriptions. They offer women and girls from Asia and Eastern Europe, providing photographs accompanied by information such as the woman's height, weight, and measurements. Some pictures show women playing with children, which raises concerns that children are also being trafficked in this way. It is estimated that there are over 50,000 Filipino mail-order brides in the United States alone.

72. Sometimes these "marriages" are successful, but all too often the women are isolated and scared, becoming virtual slaves in their own homes. The incidence of violence against mail-order brides is extremely high. Some men use their wives as prostitutes or for pornography, and there are reports of such women having been tortured and killed.

Trafficking in organs

73. Rumours persist that there exists an illegal trade in human organs, and the Special Rapporteur has received allegations that street children in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and in the Russian Federation are being killed so that their organs can be used in transplant operations. Such allegations have recurred repeatedly for over 20 years, but to the best of the Special Rapporteur's knowledge, nobody has been convicted of being connected with such an offence. While the Special Rapporteur does not discount the possibility that such an illegal trade might exist in some form, she considers that, at the present time, available information does not substantiate the claims that are made.

2. Causes of sale and trafficking

74. The root causes of trafficking in children are multiple and complex. However, some of the more frequently cited are poverty, lack of employment opportunities, low social status of the girl child, a general lack of education and awareness, inadequate legislation in the countries concerned, and weak law enforcement machinery. These factors, no doubt, contribute to the problem, but all ethical, moral, political, economic and health reasons need to be analysed in order to gain a better understanding of how they affect the increase of sale and/or trafficking activities, particularly with regard to children.

3. Methods of recruitment for sale and trafficking

75. In rural areas in south-east Asian countries, the first contact with family members or the children themselves is usually made by men who are native to the villages. They might be people working in factories or as casual labourers in a different country or region, who have returned with reports about the money which can be made there. Acting on behalf of their agents for a sum of money, locals befriend the children and lure them with false promises. Widespread corruption adds to the complexity of the problem; village headmen, police officers and governmental officials are often involved in recruitment and transportation and in supplying the necessary documents.

76. The 1,500-km border between Nepal and India is porous, with numerous routes that can be used by the traffickers and at least 20 formal entry points. The children are coached on how to answer questions that may be asked at the border. Often the border officials are aware that a crime is being committed but will turn a blind eye to it and later blackmail the agents and claim their share of the money. After crossing the border, the children are handed over to another person who poses as a brother, uncle, or friend. Thereafter, girls might be given to brothel owners, and both boys and girls are taken to work in factories.

77. Children working in Thai brothels come from tribes in the north of the country or from neighbouring Cambodia, China and Viet Nam. Some have been sold by their parents or lured by promises of jobs.

78. The study carried out by IOM in Cambodia[6] on the recruitment of women and girls for prostitution did not lead to the impression that there exists a highly organized (inter) national criminal network of recruiters and brothel owners, but rather that the networks are based more on a personal, sometimes familial, set of relationships.

4. Trafficking paths

79. Trafficking routes have been identified in virtually every part of the world, and they are constantly shifting. Changes in national legislations, political changes that result in a greater willingness of Governments to implement international obligations, the opening of new markets, conflict situations and relations between the countries in conflict can all affect the ease with which traffickers can operate.

80. Identified trafficking routes operate primarily from south to north, from east to west; from Latin America to North America, Europe and the Middle East; from countries of the former Soviet bloc to the Baltic States and Western Europe; from Romania to Italy, and through Turkey and Cyprus to Israel and the Middle East; from West Africa to the Middle East; from Thailand and the Philippines to Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan Province of China; from Cambodia and Viet Nam to Thailand; from Nepal and Bangladesh to India; and from India and Pakistan to the Middle East.

5. Effects on children

81. The effects of prostitution on children have been documented in previous reports of the Special Rapporteur. They include injury, disease and trauma associated with multiple sexual encounters. Those who have been trafficked for this purpose suffer the added trauma of often having been betrayed by those whom they trust, forcibly separated from their families by long distances and even across borders, isolated by a foreign language and culture. They may become dependent and dangerously attached to pimps and brothel operators. If trafficked across a border, their illegal status makes it very difficult for them to seek help, since they are at risk of arrest and prosecution for prostitution, for illegal immigration and for having false identity documents. They may be jailed or deported and, on their return home, are at risk of being rejected by families and communities, re-sold, or forced to return to prostitution.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

82. One basic problem faced in effectively addressing the issues of sale and trafficking is the lack of clear definitions, which results in confusion, difficulty in drafting legislation, and weak enforcement mechanisms. Even within the United Nations agencies, member Governments and non-governmental bodies, the problem has elicited varied responses.

83. Without a clear understanding of what precisely is meant by the term "trafficking", it is not possible to develop a strong legal basis for the prosecution of traffickers or to combat trafficking effectively. The lack of clarity persists partly because trafficking covers a wide variety of situations, not all of which involve illegal migration or exploitation.

84. Problems are further compounded by constantly changing and innovative forms of recruitment strategies and varying modes of deception, coercion and force employed in the process.

85. Most countries of destination do not have response mechanisms in place to extricate children from exploitative situations arising from sale or trafficking. This is particularly true in the case of adoption, where most law enforcement agents are reluctant to intervene in what are perceived to be purely domestic problems. Likewise, most national legislations do not make any distinction between trafficking and illegal migration. Thus, children who are victims of trafficking are also subject to the same policies of deportation.

86. There is no comprehensive gathering of data on the extent of sale and/or trafficking. Where they do exist, the statistics deal with women and children generally, and there are no indicators as to the percentage of children involved.

B. Recommendations

87. To combat trafficking in women and children, the United States and Italy recently established a Working Group on Trafficking in Women and Children. The Group, which held its first meeting in Rome on 14 April 1998, agreed to certain joint actions, for which the Special Rapporteur would like to express her support. Among them are the following:

(a) Protection of the rights of victims of trafficking must be promoted through the exchange of best practices with respect to assistance, protection and social integration of victims. Common initiatives, including joint programme strategies for victim outreach, should be implemented separately in Italy and the United States and should provide for the protection of victims' families in source countries;

(b) There is need for training for law enforcement, immigration and border officials in source countries, to help them to identify patterns and methods of trafficking and prevent trafficking through effective investigation and prosecution;

(c) Witness protection procedures and victim services should be developed in source countries for cases of repatriation, including training for law enforcement officials and assistance to non-governmental organizations that provide victim services.

88. The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations:

(a) The sale and trafficking of persons must be unequivocally condemned as being an affront to human dignity, since it reduces people to the level of objects of trade and commerce;

(b) International standards with regard to sale and trafficking should be set, together with international mechanisms to ensure reporting and monitoring of State activities;

(c) Hospitals, clinics, and care institutions should be strictly monitored, in order to reduce the risk of abduction, sale and trafficking of children from such places;

(d) The possibility of establishing international and regional registers for children adopted internationally should be considered;

(e) There must be international and regional registers for missing children, containing all the pertinent information for identification;

(f) Programmes and initiatives should be established to address the issue of stigmatization of single mothers and to empower them to keep their children, should they so desire;

(g) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation, especially between countries sharing borders and including institutionalized and systematic exchange of information, is imperative if the problem of trafficking of children is to be addressed;

(h) All law enforcement agents, border police, customs and immigration officials, relevant governmental ministers, and members of the judiciary in the countries affected should be trained on and sensitized to issues of trafficking and the rights and needs of the victims. Immigration and deportation policies of the receiving countries should be revised to prevent further marginalization and traumatization of trafficked children;

(i) Victims of trafficking must be guaranteed freedom from persecution or harassment by those in positions of authority and access to free legal assistance and qualified interpreters during all proceedings;

(j) The State in the territory under whose jurisdiction the trafficking took place or where the trafficked child is found must take all necessary steps to prosecute all the perpetrators;

(k) Humane policy guidelines can accomplish much to soften legal structures and help to attenuate the plight of victims;

(l) Priority must be given to the ratification and the effective and accelerated enforcement of existing conventions and instruments on human rights, on trafficking of persons and on slavery and slavery-like practices;

(m) National legislations must be reviewed, especially in sending and receiving countries, clarifying not only who are criminally culpable but also the elements of the offence and the corresponding penalties imposable therefor;

(n) Research must be systematically carried out in order to set up more effective response mechanisms, both nationally and internationally. Without statistics and knowledge of cases illustrating the extent of the problem, advocacy for positive action will be very difficult;

(o) Procedures must be elaborated to distinguish between victims of trafficking and illegal immigrants, to enable the victims to take action against the traffickers, and to enable them to return safely to their countries of origin with the assistance of reintegration programmes;

(p) Priority must be given to the ratification and the effective and accelerated enforcement of existing conventions and instruments on human rights, on trafficking of persons, and on slavery and slavery-like practices.

89. The Special Rapporteur would like to reiterate some pertinent previous recommendations:

(a) Regional and international conferences specifically addressing the issue of prosecution of child exploitation offences, with an international component, should be convened in order to determine the most expeditious legal alternatives for the prosecution of offenders – i.e., extradition, the prosecution *in situ*, or through the principle of extraterritoriality, as established in legislation or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation;

(b) Reviews of legislation, especially in sending and receiving countries, harmonizing the elements of the offence and identifying which actors are criminally culpable and the corresponding penalties imposable, must be initiated;

(c) Existing response mechanisms, organizations and agencies providing assistance to child victims or their parents or guardians, such as telephone hotlines and focal points in relevant governmental and educational institutions and local communities, should be widely publicized.

Notes

[1] Reported by Reuters, 20 November 1997.

[2] Santa Clara (California), West Publishing Co., 1990; sixth ed.

[3] Netherlands Advisory Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy (1992), p. 13.

[4] Vivien Altman, *Signposts to Asia and the Pacific*, 1996.

[5] See *The Ottawa Citizen*, 20 July 1998.

[6] Annuska Derks, *Trafficking of Cambodian Women and Children to Thailand* (Geneva, IOM, 1997).

[7] Reported in *Hindu Daily*, 20 February 1998.

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Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization

Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 52/162 of 15 December 1997, entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions".

2. In the operative paragraphs of the resolution, the General Assembly, *inter alia*:

(a) Renewed its invitation to the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures, as appropriate, for consultations as early as possible under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations with third States that are or may be confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, with regard to a solution of those problems, including appropriate ways and means for increasing the effectiveness of its methods and procedures applied in the consideration of requests by the affected States for assistance;

(b) Welcomed the further measures taken by the Security Council since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/51 and aimed at increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the sanctions committees, invited the Council to implement those measures, and strongly recommended that the Council continue its efforts to further enhance the functioning of those committees, streamline their working procedures and facilitate access to them by representatives of States that find themselves confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of sanctions;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to pursue implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/51 related to the possible guidelines that might be adopted on technical procedures to be used by the appropriate parts of the Secretariat, and paragraphs 4 to 6 of resolution 51/208, and to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, continue developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States and initiate action in order to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States;

(d) Endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General that an ad hoc expert group meeting be convened in the first half of 1998 with a view to developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, with due regard to the particular problems and needs of developing countries confronted by the special economic problems arising from carrying out such measures, and exploring innovative and practical measures of assistance that could be provided by the relevant organizations both within and outside the United Nations system to the affected third States, the Secretary-General being requested to report on the results of the expert group meeting to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

(e) Reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States;

(f) Invited the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international organizations, regional organizations and Member States to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter, and for this purpose to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings, as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations;

(g) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

3. The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 52/162.

II. Measures for further improvement of procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees in the consideration of requests for assistance under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations

4. By a note addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 6 March 1998 (S/1998/203), the Secretary-General drew the attention of the members of the Security Council to General Assembly resolution 52/162, entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions", in particular to its paragraph 1, which is reproduced in paragraph 2 (a) above.

III. Appropriate arrangements in the Secretariat for providing better information and early assessment for the Security Council and its organs about the actual or potential effects of sanctions on third States that invoke Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations

5. The Secretary-General has taken due note of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 52/162, which is reproduced in paragraph 2 (c) above. The Secretary-General reaffirms that the arrangements that were put in place in 1996 and reflected in paragraphs 4 to 11 of his previous report on the matter (A/51/317), as well as in paragraph 5 of his 1997 report (A/52/308), continue to apply.

IV. Summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting on developing a methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures and on exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States

6. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/162, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat convened in New York from 24 to 26 June 1998 an ad hoc expert group meeting on the theme "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions". The purpose of the meeting was to solicit the views of internationally renowned experts on key substantive issues related to: (a) developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, with due regard to the particular problems and needs of developing countries confronted with the special economic problems arising from carrying out such measures; and (b) exploring innovative and practical measures of assistance that could be provided by the relevant organizations both within and outside the United Nations system to the affected third States.

7. The members of the expert group participating in their personal capacities were: Iwan J. Azis (Indonesia); Serhiy N. Berezovenko (Ukraine); David Cortright (United States of America); Tuğrul Çubukçu (Turkey); Hendrikus M. G. Denters (Netherlands); Margaret P. Doxey (Canada/United Kingdom); Leonardo Garnier Rímolo (Costa Rica); Gary Clyde Hufbauer (United States of America); Hisham Khatib (Jordan); Gheorghe-Ştefan Mihai (Romania); Germano M. Mwabu (Kenya); Cristian Ossa (Chile); and Arjun K. Sengupta (India), Chairman. Representatives of United Nations departments, programmes and specialized agencies concerned, as well as of other relevant international and regional organizations, were also invited to attend the meeting as observers.

8. The group had before it two working papers prepared for the meeting by consultants: "The incidental impact of sanctions on neighbouring countries: methodological notes", by Gary Clyde Hufbauer, and "Assistance to non-target

States affected by the application of multilateral economic sanctions: problems and proposals", by Margaret P. Doxey. As background documentation on the matter, pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly,[1] reports of the Secretary-General[2] and of the United Nations bodies concerned,[3] as well as special studies and publications on various aspects of the subject, were also made available at the meeting.

9. The deliberations and main findings of the expert group are summarized below.

A. Developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures

10. The expert group considered basic approaches to developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, taking into account the particular problems and needs of developing countries confronted with the special economic problems arising from carrying out such measures. General conceptual frameworks for impact analysis, sources of hardship and typology of effects encountered by the affected third States, as well as applicable methods and procedures for evaluating the costs of implementing sanctions, were discussed at the meeting.

1. General conceptual framework

11. The expert group took note of the conceptual framework for identifying and assessing the effects of United Nations-imposed preventive or enforcement measures on third States, as outlined in the previous reports of the Secretary-General.[4] It was also appraised of the comments provided by other international organizations, in particular the international financial and trade institutions, on such assessments.[5] In this light, the group felt that any useful methodology for impact assessment should be related to the political purpose of imposing sanctions on the target State, the economic realities and particular situations of neighbouring and other countries that are most contiguous to the sanctioned State, and the need for international cooperation and mutual assistance in bearing the costs of implementing sanctions, in order to ensure their effectiveness and minimize collateral damage, particularly adverse effects on third States.

12. It was recognized that the actual impact of sanctions on individual third States and their policy options to cope with the ensuing economic effects may differ substantially from case to case, depending on the specific nature of the sanctions regime and the particular situation of the country in question, including the structure and intensity of its suspended links with the target State. Therefore, developing a general methodology for impact assessment would require addressing a complex of issues and procedures related to the identification and proper categorization of various effects, the selection of applicable methods for estimating the incurred losses and costs, and subsequently the design of feasible and practical measures of relief and international assistance. Once these essential and interrelated elements are examined, a common methodology in the form of general guidelines or modalities for action may be formulated, and if accepted may be applied on a case-by-case basis.

2. Sources of hardship

13. Based on experience of the practical application of Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, the expert group considered the main sources of hardship and the variety of adverse effects actually incurred by third States, in particular developing countries, as a result of imposing preventive or enforcement measures. In principle, a proper identification and categorization of effects is essential for any methodology of impact assessment aimed at focusing on observable and tangible facts that can be causally related to the sanctions regime. However, these effects can be grouped in different ways, as direct and indirect, trade and financial, economic and social, primary and secondary, temporary and long-lasting.[6] An illustration of various categories of effects is set out below.

14. In general economic terms, various types of losses and costs confronting third States may be classified into two broad categories: "direct" and "indirect" effects of sanctions. *Direct effects* are evaluated as the income foregone and losses incurred stemming directly from the cancellation of contracts and/or severance of economic relations with the target country. Examples include suspended sales or outstanding orders for contracted deliveries; interrupted shipments, payments or other transactions; and disrupted production of jointly operated facilities. In most cases, these adverse effects are related to the balance of payments on current account, particularly exports and imports in goods and services, but they may also refer to capital account activities, such as investment projects. On the other hand, *indirect effects*, which are largely the induced effects of the former, represent mainly the negative impact on domestic variables, i.e., output, investment, employment and the budget. They may include disrupted production due to the absence or higher cost of sanctioned supplies, suspended

financial inputs and services, foregone profit tax or tariff revenues, lost jobs or income and the ensuing increase in social expenditures. Indirect effects are obviously less susceptible to quantitative assessment, particularly in net values.

15. Depending on the nature of sanctions imposed on a target country, specific costs for third States associated with the balance of payments may be further grouped into external-sector categories: (a) those related to trade with the target country; (b) those related to financial links with the target country; and (c) other costs associated with special relationship with the target country (e.g., joint ventures). Sectoral categorization is made more difficult because of the enormous expansion of trade in services in recent years and a vast variety in the structure and intensity of links between senders and targets of sanctions. Nevertheless, identification of main sources of hardship in the trade and financial sectors may be particularly useful for the purpose of impact assessment.

16. Typically, *trade embargoes* entail forfeiture of foreign exchange earnings that may be badly needed to finance essential imports. On the export side, the incurred consequences may include undelivered regular merchandise exports with no alternative markets readily available (exports foregone); outstanding orders for contracted future delivery for which production is already in progress; and suspended sales of services to the target State (e.g., engineering or construction projects, activities in the areas of transportation, communication, maintenance and packaging). Similarly, losses on the import side may include undelivered regular merchandise imports, particularly if no alternative suppliers are available (imports foregone); lost or suspended imports on concessionary terms, especially at subsidized prices; outstanding orders for future imports for which payment has already been made; and terminated or suspended import of services.

17. *Financial difficulties* experienced by third States as a result of sanctions comprise those related to suspended capital flows, interrupted current transfers and overdue debt servicing. Examples include lost profits on investments or other income, such as remittances from migrant workers; confiscation, seizure or conversion of savings and assets (as possible countermeasures by the target); loss of concessionary loans, credits or grants; investment foregone; and tourist revenues foregone. Although lower interest receipts reduce foreign exchange earnings in the current period, unlike lost export receipts, these overdue payments can be capitalized and added to the affected country's foreign claims on the target State. However, unreceived payments on account of debt servicing by the target country may take the form of discontinued or suspended delivery of critical commodities (e.g., Iraq's outstanding foreign debt undertaken against future oil deliveries).

18. In estimating the economic effects of sanctions on third States, it should be noted that there may be *offsetting* factors in both trade and financial sectors. For instance, part of the exports intended for the target State may be absorbed by the domestic economy or redirected to other markets, and there may also be savings on interest, amortization and other payments owed to the target country when financial measures preclude their transfer. Therefore, export losses should be estimated net of the value of redirected exports and net of the cost of imports that the affected country would have used to produce the corresponding exports. Similarly, only incremental costs of obtaining replacement imports from other sources (given by the price or interest payments differential) should be included in the overall estimates. However, a proper assessment of the incremental impact would require a reliable baseline estimate of what would have happened in the absence of sanctions.

19. Apart from the economic effects of sanctions on third States, there may also be *social costs*, resulting, for instance, from the return of large numbers of migrant workers, the influx of refugees and the loss of employment or income, all of which would require additional public expenditures (e.g., to provide housing, health, education and other social services to the affected population groups) and might strain the social fabric, particularly in developing countries. In the longer term, diverting already limited and stretched resources from development objectives to cover sanctions-related costs in the affected developing countries would put an inordinate burden on their vulnerable economies, thus further constraining economic and social development.

20. In addition, a miscellany of *secondary effects* may stem from particular features of the sanctions regime, geographical factors and monitoring and enforcement requirements, thus affecting traditional economic interaction in the region. For example, the imposition of restrictions on transshipment through a target State that plays an important role in transport and communication links in the region would seriously impede the neighbouring countries' external economic relations not directly involving the target State. Thus, a specific feature of the Yugoslav sanctions regime was that the bulk of damages reported by the neighbouring countries were those related to transportation disruptions, including losses in exports (e.g., perishable agricultural products), additional expenses for or lower receipts from transport-related services and higher payments for imports owing to widespread rerouting and extensive delays at border-crossing points, as well as monitoring and

enforcement costs. Damages of this type are most difficult for an independent assessment.

3. Methods of impact assessment

21. Based on relevant special studies, the expert group reviewed a number of specific methods that may be applicable for assessing the incidental impact of multilateral economic sanctions on non-target States, including (a) time series analysis of balance of payments changes; (b) stratified sample survey of firms or other affected entities; (c) gravity model of bilateral trade flows; (d) regression equation of income shocks; and (e) analytic hierarchy process for perception surveys. The main features of these methods are summarized and analysed below.

Time series analysis of balance of payments changes[7]

22. In this method, expert observers examine time series data for traded goods and services and relevant financial flows before and after the imposition of sanctions with a view to assessing the direct effects of sanctions in reducing merchandise exports and imports, as well as financial transfers of the concerned third State. The result is an estimate of the impact of sanctions on the balance of payments, either in absolute or relative terms. In principle, the scope of the impact analysis can be expanded to estimate the indirect, second-round effects of sanctions on domestic variables, such as output, investment, employment and the budget. These estimates may be also subdivided by economic sector or branch of industry, agriculture and services.

23. In the process, several methodological and practical difficulties may arise, thus imparting a potential bias to the estimates. Typically, in assessing the overall welfare implications of sanctions, the main challenges to be addressed are: (a) how to separate the effects of sanctions from other factors causing economic hardship; (b) how to avoid double-counting of export, output and revenue losses; (c) how to net out redirected exports and the import component of lost production; and (d) how to estimate the incremental costs of acquiring the imports from other sources. In many cases, therefore, overcoming or minimizing these methodological limitations would require an assessment to focus primarily on the balance of payments impact of sanctions and associated external financing needs of an affected country. In addition, the availability of reliable and up-to-date macroeconomic data is essential for a credible effort to measure the effects of sanctions on third countries.

Stratified sample survey of firms

24. This method may only be feasible if the country in question possesses data on a recent census or comprehensive survey of firms (or other affected entities, e.g., households) conducted prior to the imposition of sanctions, so that it can identify a stratified random sample of firms (entities) to query regarding the impact of sanctions and establish the benchmark experience of firms (entities) prior to the sanctions episode. This is essential to avoid a potential bias from focusing on self-identified or officially noticed "wounded" firms (entities). Once the required data are obtained, the next step is to perform a regression analysis of post-sanction vs. pre-sanction firm (entity) performance expressed as a function of firm (entity) characteristics.

25. In the case of affected firms, the dependent variable is the change in firm performance represented by decline in either firm sales or employment since the imposition of sanctions. Firm characteristics suggested as explanatory variables may be classified into two groups: (a) those that reflect the degree of the firm's reliance on (or intensity of its interaction with) the target country, a notable example of which is the percentage of trade with the target country in the firm's total sales and purchases prior to the sanctions; and (b) those that reflect particular features of the third country's firm itself, e.g., firm size measured by its sales or number of employees. Large (low) values of the coefficients for firm characteristics in group (a) above (usually valued on a scale from 0 to 1) indicate a high (low) dependency of the firm on the target country, resulting in a corresponding decline in the firm's total sales or employment. On this basis, national losses or costs can be estimated by applying the coefficients to mean values of firm reliance on purchased inputs from and export markets in the target country.

26. Although this method provides for impact analysis at the microeconomic level of individual firms or other affected entities in the third State, it would not identify offsetting sales growth (or employment growth) enjoyed by the firms (entities) that did not rely heavily on the target country for inputs or markets. Nor would it capture the decline in confidence which may grip the entire economy of a neighbouring country as an indirect consequence of sanctions imposed on the target State. Moreover, this method does not distinguish the effect of sanctions from other adversities, unless supplemented by a separate estimate intended to disentangle the effects.

Gravity model of bilateral trade flows[8]

27. This is a model specifically designed to measure the dynamics of economic interaction, primarily bilateral trade

flows, between any two countries, e.g., the sender (third) State and the target State. Applying a common statistical technique, known as "ordinary least squares" regression analysis, to the "gravity model" allows the researcher to isolate the direct and indirect effects of sanctions on bilateral trade flows while holding other factors constant. In this method, large data sets are used to estimate parameters that describe the basic forces which determine the magnitude of bilateral merchandise trade (imports and exports). Additional independent variables are then added to reflect the existence, duration and strength of economic sanctions. Thus, the obtained parameters for both sets of independent variables in the regression can be used to calculate the predicted percentage reduction in bilateral merchandise trade resulting from sanctions. Although the focus is on trade in goods, this method would also capture effects of financial sanctions to the extent that they reduce trade by denying investment, foreign exchange or credit to the target country, and by possibly raising the cost of credit to the affected third State.

28. However, in practical application of this method, some important caveats should be duly noted. In the first instance, the use of predicted percentage coefficients to assess a specific episode requires prior classification of the severity of sanctions in question. Thus, taking an average of parameter estimates for the years 1985, 1990 and 1995, a recent study of the impact of sanctions on the United States' exports found that "limited" sanctions reduced bilateral trade by 27 per cent from the level that would otherwise have been observed; "moderate" sanctions resulted in the decline of bilateral trade by 36 per cent; and "extensive" sanctions accounted for a 91 per cent drop in exports.[8] Moreover, the model does not permit calculation of offsetting trade flows that may have been induced by bilateral trade losses with the target country; nor does it purport to calculate losses in domestic output cascading from lost trade. Furthermore, as with all statistically estimated parameters, the predicted trade losses have an associated error term of some 10 percentage points to the mean prediction.

Regression equation of income shocks

29. The logic behind this method is that the effect of a contraction in the target State's economy (i.e., a substantial income shock from discrete causes, such as sanctions) on the third State's income will vary according to the relative importance of the former in the total trade of the latter and will tend to become smaller over time. Thus, the first step is to collect data on a large number of adverse episodes and then devise a regression equation to estimate the induced change in the third country's gross domestic product (GDP). Accordingly, independent variables will take the form of interacted variables between (a) the share of bilateral trade with the target country in the third State's GDP prior to the shock, and (b) the percentage change (i.e., decline) in real GDP of the target country, taken at a certain time following the initiation of sanctions. It is expected that the larger the proportion of trade with the target country in the third State's GDP, the more important effect the drop in the GDP of the former will have on the output in the latter, especially in the initial period after the imposition of sanctions. However, as time goes on, the affected third State should find ways to adjust to its severed economic contacts with the target State. Therefore, the estimated parameters purport to indicate, in diminishing coefficient values, the current year and lagged year effects of income shocks.

30. This method seeks to provide a more comprehensive analysis since the variables in the regression reflect both trade losses and domestic output losses, taking into account various external and internal offsets. However, the resulting calculations cannot be traced to particular events or affected entities in the episode in question because the parameters are estimated as averages derived from a large number of similar but not identical episodes of income shocks.

Analytic hierarchy process for perception surveys[9]

31. As a practical tool for conducting a perception survey of the impact of sanctions, this method seeks to: (a) capture intangible variables, such as political and social factors; (b) measure the benefits and costs of several options, in order to avoid overstatement in judgements; (c) quantify inconsistent perceptions but still produce consistent ranking of priority; (d) incorporate indirect and second-round effects; and (e) integrate the incurred consequences with policy responses or measures of assistance. Although it can be argued that this method has solid theoretical and mathematical foundations, its practical application does not require long series data.

32. Basically, there are two major steps to be taken: the first step is to construct a hierarchy to synthesize the problems at hand; the second is to measure the priority ranking of each attribute in the hierarchy, by using a scaling range (e.g., 1 to 9). A typical hierarchy for impact analysis ("impact hierarchy") consists of several levels, including the one distinguishing the direct and indirect effects of sanctions. In designing the hierarchy for a particular case, there is ample flexibility for determining the number of attributes in each level, as well as the number of levels in the hierarchy. However, the longer the hierarchy, the more time-consuming the calculation will be. Having identified the

critical impact variables at the bottom level of the hierarchy, the next hierarchy ("response hierarchy") would have to fuse those variables with various factors considered crucial in scrutinizing the relevant measures of assistance to the affected third country.

33. Since human judgements are the main inputs in this method, there is a risk of overstatement (i.e., exaggerating the damaging effects of sanctions). To overcome such a predicament, a benefit/cost principle can be applied. To this end, two "response hierarchies" are to be constructed, one for the benefit and another for the cost, of taking alternative measures. These measures are catalogued at the bottom level of both hierarchies in order to estimate both the benefits and the costs of each alternative measure of assistance. The benefit/cost ratio will then be used as the criterion to make the ultimate decision. The ratio of two ordinal scales is taken in this case due to the fact that the scales being used in measuring the priority ranking of each attribute in the hierarchy are ratio scales obtained through a pair-wise comparison. The accuracy of the final results is tested by measuring the degree of inconsistency calculated from the judgement inputs. The test of robustness may be conducted by running a sensitivity analysis, without requiring additional information.

34. Although all of the above-mentioned methods may be useful in assessing the effects of sanctions on non-target States, the expert group felt that the choice of applicable method(s) will depend on particular circumstances of the affected State(s) in the context of specific sanctions regime(s). Ideally, as many of the methods as feasible should be attempted to satisfy as many analytical criteria as possible. However, the availability of data and the cost of analysis may impose serious limitations to applying some of the bottom-up and top-down methods described above. Moreover, specific features of the sanctions regime and particular conditions in some affected countries, stemming from the diversity and intensity of its suspended links with the target State (e.g., as a result of interruption of close commercial, financial, institutional, transport and infrastructural relationships), may make it necessary to undertake on-site or field assessment in order to properly grasp and fully evaluate a variety of adverse effects. It was argued that for most severely affected neighbouring countries on-site visits by ad hoc assessment missions would be unavoidable.

B. Exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance that could be provided to third States affected by the application of sanctions

35. In considering this issue, the expert group discussed a broad range of ideas and proposals aimed at minimizing the collateral damage of sanctions and providing practical assistance to third States, in particular developing countries, which would help them to cope with the special economic problems arising from the application of sanctions. To this end, it reviewed the recent practice of international responses to the appeals for assistance on behalf of the affected third States, as summarized in the previous reports of the Secretary-General on the subject.[10] Attention was paid to both financial and non-financial measures of assistance that could be undertaken on bilateral and multilateral levels to insulate, to the extent possible, the affected third countries.

1. General considerations

36. The expert group stressed the concept of burden-sharing and equitable distribution of costs, as reflected in Articles 49 and 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. It was agreed that this concept is relevant to both minimizing collateral damage and encouraging full cooperation in implementation of sanctions.[11] Recent experience has shown that in practical terms, donor motivation to provide assistance to third States is largely a product of concern for the strict implementation of sanctions. On the other hand, practical and timely assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions would further contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach by the international community to sanctions imposed by the Security Council. Thus, measures of assistance that incorporate elements of improved capacity for enforcement of sanctions are more likely to commend themselves to external donors providing assistance to the affected third States.

37. The group felt that the cost of implementing sanctions should be viewed as the opportunity cost of a possible alternative to an international military action or a peacekeeping operation. The costs of such military or peacekeeping operations are internationally shared, either by voluntary or assessed contributions. Similarly, the cost of carrying out preventive or enforcement measures, such as economic sanctions, particularly the consequences for affected developing countries, should be borne by the international community on a more equitable basis. It was expected that the major industrial countries, as well as other

high-income countries, would recognize and accept their special responsibility in this regard.

2. Action to minimize collateral damage of sanctions

38. In the first instance, the expert group considered possible measures that could be taken prior to or shortly after the imposition of sanctions with a view to enhancing their political impact and minimizing their collateral damage, particularly the secondary adverse effects on third States. Proposals on such non-financial and largely administrative measures include (a) prior study, including assessment of possible adverse effects on third States; (b) consultations with potentially vulnerable non-target States; (c) consideration of possible exemptions for most seriously affected countries; (d) design of "targeted measures" aimed at the offender (e.g., ruling elites) rather than civil society as a whole; (e) further improvement of procedures and methods of work of the Security Council and its sanctions committees.[12]

Prior studies and consultations

39. The group felt that it was essential that the Security Council should give careful consideration to the potential effects of sanctions both on the target State (primarily humanitarian impacts) and on third countries before adopting a resolution imposing such measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The Council would greatly benefit from a prior study of the potential effects of intended enforcement or preventive measures, as well as prior consultations with the non-target countries that are most likely to be affected by such measures. As a result, some of the collateral damage to neighbouring and other third States could be avoided, without undermining the effectiveness of the contemplated sanctions regime. Further provision could be also made for monitoring the sanctions effects and introducing adjustments, as appropriate.[13]

Exemptions

40. The group recalled that it has been the practice of the Security Council and/or its sanctions committees to grant partial or limited exemptions permitting certain transactions with the target State for specific commodities or services of crucial importance to neighbouring and other third countries.[14] Provision for such exemptions has been made under exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis and under appropriate forms of monitoring and control. For example, in the case of the Iraqi sanctions, the relevant committee authorized, on an exceptional basis, Jordan's request for resumption of imports of oil and oil derivatives from Iraq. In the case of the Yugoslav sanctions regime, such examples include, *inter alia*, specific requests from Albania (transit of electric energy), Hungary (supply of fuel for ice-breakers on the Danube), Romania (oil deliveries for the Iron Gates I system on the Danube) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (transit traffic). Thus, in certain cases appropriate and timely exemptions would obviate the need for further offsetting or adjustment measures for the damage already sustained or the losses and costs actually incurred by non-target States.

Targeted sanctions

41. Targeted sanctions, such as personal assets freezes, visa-based travel restrictions and exclusion from international forums, seek to deprive ruling elites of important values, thus bringing about the required policy changes without hurting the civilian population in the target country or affecting the economies of third States. Such measures commend themselves on grounds of equity and probable efficacy, and their merits therefore deserve priority consideration in designing a sanctions regime.[15]

3. Measures of assistance to affected third States

42. Further, the expert group discussed practical measures of assistance that could be provided by the relevant organizations both within and outside the United Nations system to third States affected by the application of sanctions. It was understood that such measures should be related to the nature of the special economic problems confronting the affected third States in a particular sanctions episode, as well as the specific mandates, existing facilities and available resources of the organizations concerned. Comprehensive sanctions, such as those imposed on Iraq or former Yugoslavia, would require a broad-based international response, involving the international financial and trade institutions, United Nations development programmes and specialized agencies, as well as other relevant international and regional organizations.

International financial and trade institutions

43. The expert group observed that the international financial institutions, both at the global and regional levels, possess, in principle, the required expertise, existing instruments and financial resources to assist member States in coping with such external economic shocks as the imposition of sanctions. Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is well placed to provide financial assistance under its existing facilities to any member

experiencing balance of payments difficulties, the World Bank and the regional development banks are well equipped to address, within the priorities of the investment programmes in the countries concerned, various sectoral and other development problems. In emergency situations, those institutions are in a position to take prompt action to adapt and expand their operations, facilities and policies to provide financial support to the most seriously affected countries. For example, in response to the Gulf crisis, IMF took a number of practical measures, including the introduction of a temporary "oil element" into the compensatory and contingency financing facility to compensate member countries for sharp, unexpected rises in the cost of their imports of crude petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas; provision for quicker access to and broader coverage of compensatory financing in the wake of a steep fall in export receipts, including shortfalls in earnings from pipelines, canal transit fees, shipping, transportation, construction and insurance; and other actions to increase flexibility and availability of financing to affected countries reinforcing their adjustment efforts.[16] At the same time, the World Bank and the regional development banks undertook, *inter alia*, to accelerate disbursements from existing loans and credits, increase their cost-sharing limits in ongoing and new projects, and expand concessionary lending to affected countries. In addition, the Fund and the Bank have the experience in mobilizing and coordinating (e.g., in the context of consultative group meetings) financial support from a variety of international and bilateral donors, including Governments and private financial institutions, as well as the expertise to provide technical assistance.

44. The group agreed that the international financial institutions should play the lead role in both assessing the economic consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of the United Nations-imposed sanctions and providing financial assistance to those affected countries in order to enable them to overcome their economic, financial and trade difficulties resulting from the implementation of sanctions. In order to address more specifically and directly the special economic problems of third States affected by the application of sanctions, IMF and the World Bank may wish to consider establishing a special mechanism, to be approved by their respective governing bodies, which would allow these institutions to mobilize new and additional financial resources from all potential funding sources in order to provide emergency financial support to those affected third States on exceptional and concessionary terms, without diverting resources from regular assistance programmes for development. It is essential for ensuring the success of sanctions adjustment efforts that this mechanism provide for special financial assistance that would go above and beyond the traditional interventions on account of macroeconomic imbalances or structural adjustment programmes, and would address specifically and directly the special economic problems and needs arising from the application of sanctions. Financial assistance may need to be supplemented by non-financial measures of trade promotion, including granting of special trade preferences, adjustment of tariffs, allocation of quotas, special commodity purchase agreements and finding new markets. The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) can provide the necessary technical assistance in this regard.

United Nations development programmes and agencies

45. The expert group felt that the United Nations development programmes and specialized agencies concerned, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, should focus on providing emergency relief, as well as longer-term assistance to the affected third States to enable them to better cope with the social and humanitarian effects of sanctions. Accordingly, these bodies should have the primary responsibility for identifying and assessing the affected countries' particular problems and needs in those areas of concern and designing appropriate assistance measures. To this end, establishing ad hoc inter-agency arrangements and issuing consolidated inter-agency appeals to provide special assistance programmes, to be prepared and implemented under the auspices of the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs or UNDP, as appropriate, may serve as useful instruments to ensure proper coordination of agency programming, resource mobilization and assistance delivery efforts on behalf of affected third States. It is essential that such special assistance programmes be based on common, coherent strategies, identify the respective roles of different agencies involved and indicate their respective resource requirements. To the extent possible, these funding requirements should be met by the existing funds (e.g., special programme resources) of the bodies concerned and/or raised through special resource mobilization efforts, such as donor conferences. The UNDP resident coordinator

system can play an important part in ensuring field evaluation of potential and actual needs, as well as implementation of these special assistance programmes.

46. However, past experience shows that the appeals of the Secretary-General and resource mobilization efforts by the United Nations development programmes on behalf of third States affected by the sanctions imposed on Iraq and Yugoslavia have not evoked responses fully commensurate with the magnitude of the problems confronting those third States. Therefore, it was suggested that serious consideration be given to applying for this purpose the funding procedures similar to those adopted for peacekeeping operations. Such procedures would ensure the availability and predictability of funds that may be required to assist the affected third States in overcoming the social and humanitarian effects of sanctions.

Regional cooperation

47. The expert group stressed the importance of regional cooperation in alleviating the hardship incurred by the neighbouring States, in particular that associated with the enforcement of sanctions (i.e., secondary effects). Experience in the cases of sanctions against South Africa and Yugoslavia suggests that encouragement of regional cooperation and help with the costs of enforcement can be important strategies in mitigating collateral damage of sanctions. Regional initiatives not only pool information and encourage mutually beneficial cooperative arrangements but also bring prospective bilateral and multilateral donors together with affected countries and facilitate the development of an integrated approach.

48. Thus, an innovative feature in the Yugoslav case was the dispatch of sanctions assistance missions (SAMs) to seven countries in the region (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), with their consent. As a joint Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/European Union operation, the SAM system involved professional customs officers giving on-the-ground advice on the implementation of sanctions, and at the same time helping facilitate legitimate trade at border-crossing points, thus serving the dual purpose of strengthening enforcement and mitigating some of the hardship experienced by States in the region. In another example from the same case, the OSCE initiative to convene a special meeting at Vienna in early 1994 to help affected States in the region to better cope with the effects of the sanctions resulted in identifying eight short-term projects to alleviate bottlenecks in traffic flow around former Yugoslavia. In this connection, the European Commission allocated 100 million ECUs for a longer-term programme of transport and infrastructure development in the region. In follow-up, two customs corridors were established to accelerate the transit of goods through selected border-crossing points.[17]

C. Conclusions and recommendations

49. In the light of its deliberations, the expert group concluded that the two items on its agenda, namely, developing a methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, and exploring innovative and practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States, were closely interrelated and mutually complementary. It felt, therefore, that its recommendations should address both issues taken together in order to deal in a more comprehensive and effective way with the special economic problems of States affected by the application of sanctions. Accordingly, the group outlined a set of general guidelines for the whole process of assessing and alleviating the adverse effects of sanctions on third States. If accepted, the proposed approach would include a number of practical steps to be taken sequentially and to be applicable to all future cases of economic sanctions, although within each step there may be variations of procedures and measures on a case-by-case basis. The overall process/methodology is described below.

50. To facilitate the process of impact assessment, the group recommended drawing up a tentative list of potential effects of sanctions on third States. Obviously, such a list cannot be exhaustive and should be adjusted in each specific case, depending on the nature of sanctions, the structure and intensity of economic relations with the target country and other factors that may be particularly relevant (e.g., geography). These potential effects, both direct and indirect, may be grouped into three broad categories: (a) economic, trade and financial effects; (b) social and humanitarian effects, with particular reference to the most vulnerable social groups (e.g., migrants and displaced persons); and (c) secondary effects, which are usually associated with the problems of sanctions enforcement. The main elements of the proposed list are identified and discussed in paragraphs 13–20 above.

51. When considering the imposition of a sanctions regime, the Security Council may wish to request the Secretary-General to submit, within a short period of time (e.g., two weeks), an advance assessment of the potential impact of sanctions on the target country in particular on

third States. Based on available statistical data regarding external economic links of the target country, such a preliminary analysis may effectively predict the bulk of possible adverse effects of the intended measures on third countries, without prejudice to a more detailed assessment that may be needed at a later stage. It would also help to identify, on a tentative basis, those economies that are most vulnerable to the severe impact of sanctions. In turn, taking into account the concerns of States most likely to be seriously affected by such measures prior to their adoption would be an essential factor in ensuring the effectiveness of sanctions and minimizing collateral damage.

52. Following the imposition of sanctions, the Secretariat should be entrusted with the task of monitoring the effects of sanctions with a view to providing to the Security Council and its organs timely information and early assessments on the effects of the sanctions regime in third States that are or may be most seriously affected by the implementation of sanctions. The purpose of such assessments would be to advise the Council and its sanctions committee on specific needs and problems of those third States and present possible options so that, while maintaining the effectiveness of the sanctions regime, appropriate adjustments or partial changes may be introduced to the administration of the regime or the regime itself in order to mitigate the adverse effects on such States.

53. With regard to States invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretariat should be prepared to provide technical assistance to such States, at their request, in preparing the explanatory materials to be attached to their requests for consultations with the Security Council with a view to finding a solution to their special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions. The tentative list of potential effects of sanctions on third States, with appropriate adjustments according to the specific features of the sanctions regime, may serve as a useful framework for national assessments, and would enable the Security Council to consider individual cases on a more standardized and comparable basis. The Council may also wish to request the Secretariat to provide additional information and analysis with regard to national assessments.

54. It is strongly recommended that in the most severe cases, the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative to undertake, in collaboration with the Governments concerned, a full assessment of the consequences actually incurred by the specially affected countries as a result of carrying out the United Nations-imposed sanctions, and to identify appropriate and adequate measures of assistance to such States. To this end, the Special Representative should put in place an inter-agency arrangement or task force, which would consist of three subgroups, with the participation of representatives of the relevant international organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. Accordingly, one subgroup would be responsible for the matters related to evaluating and mitigating the economic, trade and financial effects of sanctions, and would therefore include representatives of the international financial and trade institutions, in particular the World Bank and IMF, which may also draw upon the expertise of UNCTAD, WTO and regional development banks, as required. The second subgroup would deal with the social and humanitarian effects of sanctions, and would include representatives of the United Nations development programmes and specialized agencies concerned, such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, ILO, FAO, and WHO, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate. The third subgroup, comprising officials from the relevant departments/offices of the Secretariat, would address the secondary effects of sanctions, by recommending appropriate amendments to the administration of sanctions regimes, partial or limited exemptions under exceptional circumstances and other non-financial measures with a view to maximizing the political impact of sanctions and minimizing their collateral damage. In its work, the latter group may also draw upon specialized expertise, both from inside and outside the United Nations system, in particular the regional organizations.

55. The above subgroups would have the primary responsibility for preparing the impact assessments and action-oriented proposals in their respective areas of competence. Depending on the nature of the problems and the availability of information, each subgroup would adopt an appropriate methodology for assessing the particular category of effects under its purview. As summarized and analysed in paragraphs 21–34 above, the five practical methods of impact assessment, namely: (a) time series analysis of balance of payments changes; (b) stratified sample survey of firms; (c) gravity model of bilateral trade flows; (d) regression equation of income shocks; and (e) analytic hierarchy process for perception surveys, or any combination thereof, provide needed flexibility in this regard.

56. For most severely affected third countries, the task of impact assessment may be best served by special fact-finding or evaluation missions being dispatched on the ground. In such cases, on-site visits by special assessment missions would be of critical importance for estimating the full range of adverse effects and special economic problems arising

from the implementation of sanctions, ascertaining the urgent needs and particular requirements for international support, and elaborating proposals for special remedial or assistance measures. This task would be facilitated by close collaboration with national and local authorities and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the affected third States, and effective utilization of country presence, where available, of representatives of the United Nations system (e.g., resident coordinators) and other international organizations.

57. The Special Representative would have the ultimate responsibility for the whole process of impact assessment, including the tasks of coordinating the work of the three subgroups referred to in paragraph 54 above and combining their assessments into an overall report to be submitted to the Secretary-General. This report should also include, in all the three integral parts prepared by the subgroups, concrete proposals on practical measures of international assistance to the affected third States, as appropriate (see paras. 38–48 above). In addition, the report should reflect, to the extent possible, bilateral assistance initiatives, as well as relevant contributions contemplated by the institutions outside the United Nations system, particularly at the regional level. To this end, the Special Representative should hold consultations with the regional and other concerned organizations, as required. The Special Representative may be further requested to coordinate the follow-up assistance activities on behalf of the affected countries or regions.

V. Recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

58. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 52/162, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination have continued to play their respective roles in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States.

59. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly had before it the report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/52/535). The report contained updated information on bilateral and multilateral assistance provided, in 1996–1997, to the affected countries, primarily in the fields of balance of payments support, transport and infrastructure development and assistance in trade and investment promotion. Particular reference was made in the report to the relevant activities in the affected countries of FAO, the World Bank, IMF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as the European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In addition, the report provided updated information received from the World Bank, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR on the participation of suppliers from the affected countries in the post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of former Yugoslavia.

60. In its resolution 52/169 H of 16 December 1997, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, renewed its invitation to all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs of the affected States in providing assistance to them during the transition period following the lifting of the sanctions; encouraged the affected States of the region to continue the process of multilateral regional cooperation in such fields as cross-border infrastructure projects and the promotion of trade and investment, thus alleviating the adverse impact of the sanctions; urged the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps in order to broaden access for suppliers from the affected countries and to ensure their active participation in the process of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of the former Yugoslavia; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

61. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-eighth session held from 1 to 26 June 1998, considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997 (E/1998/21), which included, in accordance with the request contained in paragraph 338 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its of its thirty-seventh session (see A/52/16), a chapter entitled "Assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations". During the discussion, support was expressed for

the measures being undertaken within the United Nations system in providing assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter. It was indicated that many of those countries were doubly penalized by the application of sanctions, and enquiries were made regarding the ad hoc expert group meeting called for in General Assembly resolution 52/162 (see A/53/16 (Part I), para.278).

VI. Coordination of information regarding international assistance available to third States affected by the application of sanctions, in cooperation with the relevant organizations and institutions inside and outside the United Nations system

62. In the course of the preparations for the ad hoc expert group meeting referred to in section IV above, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed letters to the executive heads of the relevant development programmes and agencies, including the international financial and trade institutions and regional organizations concerned, both inside and outside the United Nations system, inviting their representatives to attend the meeting as observers and requesting any views or background information that they might have on the various issues covered in paragraphs 4 and 6 of General Assembly resolution 52/162.

63. In their replies, those organizations and institutions reiterated their awareness and concern about the special economic and other consequences incurred by third States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. A number of international and regional organizations from inside and outside the United Nations system sent their observers to the ad hoc expert group meeting, while the others expressed their interest in being informed about the meeting's proceedings and results and in maintaining collaborative contacts with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat regarding the follow-up activities. As for the implementation of paragraph 6 of the resolution, several organizations referred to their submissions for the preparation of the previous report of the Secretary-General on the subject (see A/52/308, sects. III and IV).

64. In addition, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) emphasized the importance of subregional initiatives conceived to foster the spirit of cooperation and good neighbourly relations in South-eastern Europe. For example, the South East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), launched in December 1996 by the United States, seeks to provide support to subregional cooperation projects aimed at addressing common economic and environmental problems of the countries concerned. The important feature of SECI is that it is not a massive aid programme but rather a self-help programme in which countries of the region themselves decide how they can work more closely with each other and what concrete action is required to mitigate shared problems. This cooperation takes the form of specific projects comprising two common dimensions: (a) harmonization of policies, based on the relevant ECE conventions, norms, standards and guidelines that address various transboundary issues; and (b) development of the necessary conditions for funding by the private sector or financial institutions. Participation of the European Commission, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the project group meetings also helps to ensure consistent approaches and avoid duplication of efforts. In the view of ECE, this initiative is both practical and to some extent innovative, and could therefore be applied to other regions, as appropriate.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996 and 52/162 of 15 December 1997 on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; 47/120 A of 18 December 1992 and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993 on an agenda for peace; and 51/242 of 15 September 1997 on the supplement to an agenda for peace.

[2] Reports of the Secretary-General on the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (A/48/573-S/26705); on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/49/356, A/50/423, A/51/356 and A/52/535); on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/50/361, A/51/317 and A/52/308); and on the supplement to an agenda for peace (A/50/60-S/1995/1).

[3] The 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 reports of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (A/49/33, A/50/33, A/51/33, A/52/33 and A/53/33).

[4] See reports of the Secretary-General on the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United

Nations (A/48/573-S/26705, paras. 70-86) and on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/51/317, paras. 16-34).

[5] See report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/52/308, paras. 6-12).

[6] For a breakdown of main categories of costs for senders of sanctions, see Margaret P. Doxey, *International Sanctions in Contemporary Perspective*, second edition (London, MacMillan/New York, St. Martin's Press, 1996), chap. 4, table 4.1, p. 68.

[7] For an illustration of the application of this method, see a paper prepared by the staff of the International Monetary Fund, "Impact of implementing United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", IMF document EBS/94/229 (December 1994).

[8] For a more detailed discussion and an illustration of the practical application of this method, see a working paper by Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Kimberly Ann Elliott, Tess Cyrus and Elizabeth Winston, "US economic sanctions: their impact on trade, jobs, and wages" (Washington, D.C., Institute for International Economics, April 1997).

[9] For a more detailed explanation of this method, see Iwan J. Azis, "The use of the analytic hierarchy process in conflict analysis and an extension", *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*, vol. 3, No. 3 (1997), and Iwan J. Azis, "Resolving possible tensions in ASEAN's future trade: using 'analytic hierarchy process'", in *ASEAN Economic Bulletin* (Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, March 1997), vol. 12, No. 3.

[10] See reports of the Secretary-General on the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (A/48/573-S/26705, paras. 107-125), and on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/49/356, A/50/423, A/51/356 and A/52/535).

[11] For a more detailed analysis of the concept of burden-sharing and costs of sanctions, see Margaret P. Doxey, *United Nations Sanctions: Current Policy Issues* (Halifax, Dalhousie University, 1997), chap. 1; and Doxey, op. cit., chap. 4.

[12] See also report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions (A/50/361, paras. 4-38).

[13] For details of possible frameworks and indicators for preassessing and monitoring humanitarian impacts of sanctions, see *Political Gain and Civilian Pain: Humanitarian Impacts of Economic Sanctions*, Thomas G. Weiss, David Cortright, George A. Lopez and Larry Minear, eds. (Landham, Maryland, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1997), chap. 2; and Larry Minear, David Cortright, Julia Wagler, George A. Lopez and Thomas G. Weiss, "Toward more humane and effective sanctions management: enhancing the capacity of the United Nations system", study commissioned by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, October 1997.

[14] See reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/50/361, paras. 30-38); and on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/50/423, paras. 5-17; and A/51/356, paras. 9-11).

[15] See also Margaret P. Doxey, *United Nations Sanctions: Current Policy Issues* (Halifax, Dalhousie University, 1997), chap. 3.

[16] For details, see David M. Cheney, *Dealing with the Unexpected: The IMF's Response to the Middle East Crisis* (Washington, D.C., International Monetary Fund, August 1991).

[17] See reports of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/49/356, paras. 68-75; and A/50/423, paras. 63-68).

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United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

A. Fifty-second session of the General Assembly

1. By resolution 52/127 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly, recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) entitled "Towards a culture of peace", the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[1] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/52/469 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

2. By the same resolution, the Assembly urged all Governments: (a) to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade, in particular by establishing, in accordance with national conditions, broadly representative national committees for human rights education responsible for the development of comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education and information; and (b) to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national plans of action. It called upon Governments, in accordance with their national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination in their relevant national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights[3] and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties under the human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures might be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments.

3. Further, the Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights education and information strategies within the United Nations system, stressed the need for close collaboration between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign and the need to harmonize their activities with those of other organizations, and encouraged the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to support national capacities for human rights education and information through its technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights.

4. The Assembly also encouraged the human rights treaty bodies to place emphasis, when examining reports of States parties, on obligations of States parties in the area of human rights education and information and to reflect this emphasis in their concluding observations; and invited the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes and funds to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign and to cooperate closely with the Office of the High Commissioner in that regard. Further, it called upon international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities, alone and in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in implementing the Plan of Action.

5. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, appropriate ways and means, including the possibility of establishing a voluntary fund, to support human rights activities, to bring resolution 52/127 to the attention of all members of the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information, and to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-third session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights

6. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission on Human Rights took note with appreciation of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General and welcomed the steps taken by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action, and to develop public information activities in the field of human rights. It urged all Governments to contribute further

to the implementation of the Plan of Action and to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national plans.

7. The Commission requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accelerate, within existing resources, the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade and, in particular, to encourage and facilitate the establishment of national plans of action for human rights education in Member States and to continue to support national capacities for human rights education and information through its technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights and requested the Office of the High Commissioner to consider appropriate ways and means, including the possibility of establishing a voluntary fund, to support human rights education activities.

8. Also, the Commission requested human rights monitoring bodies to consider adopting a general comment on human rights education; to place emphasis, when examining the reports of States parties, on obligations of States parties in the area of human rights education and information; and to reflect this emphasis in their concluding observations. The Commission invited specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes and funds to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade and to cooperate closely with the Office of the High Commissioner in that regard. It urged the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to provide training in the human rights of women to all United Nations personnel and officials.

9. The Commission called upon international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities, alone and in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in implementing the Plan of Action. It encouraged Governments, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake human rights education and information initiatives as a contribution to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to continue that work, in accordance with the Plan of Action, for the duration of the Decade.

10. Finally, the Commission decided to continue consideration of the question of human rights education at its fifty-fifth session under the same agenda item, in connection with the question of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights.

II. Implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

11. Since the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and on other public information activities in the field of human rights to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (see A/52/469), the present report will make reference only to activities undertaken between September 1997 and August 1998. The format of the report follows the structure of the Plan of Action and illustrates the advances made in the implementation of each of the eight components of the Plan.

A. Component one: Assessing needs and formulating strategies for human rights education

12. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is carrying out a survey of existing programmes, materials and organizations for human rights education at the international, regional, national and local levels. Targeted questionnaires, already elaborated, will be sent to all partners as soon as the structure of the related database – which will make the collected information broadly available through the Web site of the Office (http://www.unhchr.ch) – is finalized.

13. Also, the Office has continued to actively collect materials for human rights education produced at the international, regional, national and local levels, and access to this collection has been made available to human rights educators who have visited the Office.

B. Components two and three: Strengthening international and regional programmes and capacities for human rights education

14. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and several international and regional Decade partners, alone and in cooperation with the Office, have undertaken human rights education activities in the period

under review. Owing to constraints of space, the present section does not refer to educational activities carried out specifically as a contribution to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (such as commemorative panels, special events); that information can be retrieved from the special Web site page of the Office dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary.

1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

15. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has continued to disseminate information on the Decade and on human rights education by answering related enquiries, on a daily basis, from interested representatives of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, students and other individuals and organizations. In June 1998, notes verbales were addressed to all Governments, as were letters to non-governmental organizations, drawing their attention to General Assembly resolution 52/127 and soliciting information on their contribution to its implementation. A specific page of the Office Web site concerning the Decade is periodically updated in order to disseminate related information.

16. The Office has intensified its technical cooperation activities to strengthen national capacities in the field of human rights, including human rights education and public information. Details of activities at the national, regional and global levels are provided in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1998/92).

17. The Office has recently launched the pilot phase of the ACT (Assisting Communities Together) project which is intended to empower organizations and individuals at the local level to undertake activities aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in local communities. The ACT project will award a limited a number of small grants (maximum US$ 2,000 each) to selected applicants. The first phase of the project was launched in selected countries, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP Resident Representatives, as well as the field offices of the Office of the High Commissioner, have been provided with ACT project application materials and have been asked by the High Commissioner to make the applications widely available. The first round of ACT project grants will be awarded during the last quarter of 1998. Application materials for the ACT project, as well as its description (in English, French and Spanish), can be requested from the Office.

18. The Office took an active part in several educational activities, such as the international human rights training programmes organized by various organizations (e.g., the International Institute for Human Rights, France; the International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education, Switzerland; the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Canada; the Scuola Superiore S. Anna, Italy), special events and other initiatives such as those highlighted in chapter III, section C, and chapter IV below. General activities for the promotion of human rights undertaken by the High Commissioner are mentioned in the report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.[4]

2. United Nations system

19. The Office of the High Commissioner is implementing joint projects within the framework of the Decade with UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Public Information with regard to the dissemination of the Universal Declaration in schools and in various national and local languages (see sect. F below). The Office has continued to place particular emphasis on the coordination of activities with UNESCO which, in consultation with the Office, organized, together with the Institute for Human Rights at Abo Akademi University in Finland and the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO, a regional conference on human rights education in Europe, which was held at Turku, Finland, from 18 to 21 September 1997. The conference was the first of a series of UNESCO regional conferences aimed at furthering the objectives of the Decade. Other UNESCO activities for the promotion of education for peace, human rights, democracy, international understanding and tolerance, undertaken within the framework of the UNESCO project entitled "Towards a culture of peace", are highlighted in the related report of the Director-General of UNESCO to the General Assembly, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 52/13 (see A/53/370).

20. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has highlighted the close relationship it has developed with the Interamerican Institute for Human Rights since 1994; public awareness and training programmes developed jointly concern mainly economic, social and cultural rights and the human rights of women. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has produced a package of nutritional education materials in various languages, entitled *Get the Best from Your Food*, emphasizing the positive nature of nutritional education and promoting food and agricultural development. The package has been disseminated for use in a variety of nutritional

programmes for the general public, in elementary and secondary schools and through the media.

21. The International Labour Organization (ILO), stressing that education in those human rights within its competence is a principal activity of the agency (taking the form, for instance, of training for workers' and employers' organizations and for national governmental officials in ILO procedures and standards), mentioned, in particular, the successful ratification campaign it conducted among member States concerning the fundamental human rights Conventions of ILO. The campaign included specific training organized by ILO on the implications of the Conventions concerned, their coverage and the methods by which they are applied in other countries.

22. The United Nations Children's Fund published in April 1998 a selected bibliography on education on human and children's rights, including information on how to obtain the listed publications. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research carried out a survey of general training institutes and programmes within the United Nations addressed to the personnel of Member States (June 1998), which includes human rights training programmes. Finally, recent information on the contribution of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to human rights education and public information is provided in chapter IV below.

3. Other international organizations

23. The Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored a three-year (1995–1997) study, entitled *Commonwealth Values in Education – Young People's Understanding of Human Rights*, which was carried out by the International Centre for Intercultural Studies, London University Institute of Education. The study concerns the teaching and learning of human rights at the secondary school level in 23 schools in Botswana, India, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Zimbabwe, and led to a series of recommendations aimed at furthering human rights education, addressed to Commonwealth Ministers with related responsibilities.

24. In May 1998, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in cooperation with UNDP, the Council of Europe and the Polish Ombudsman's Office, and with the collaboration of the Office of the High Commissioner, organized the Human Rights Dimension Seminar on Ombudsman and National Human Rights Protection Institutions, which was attended by representatives from 43 participating States, along with representatives from 11 intergovernmental and 29 non-governmental organizations. As a contribution to furthering human rights education at the national level, one of the four discussion groups of the Seminar was devoted to the preparation of national plans of action for human rights education.

4. Human rights treaty bodies

25. In support of the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies in the area of human rights education, the Office is currently publishing the study entitled *Human Rights Education and Human Rights Treaties*, carried out in the period 1996/1997. The document presents an examination of reports by Governments to six treaty bodies, assessing the emphasis put on human rights education in each report and in the concluding observations and recommendations of the treaty bodies. The document proposes some general comments in the light of the information gathered and suggestions for further action on the part of treaty bodies.

5. Human rights institutes

26. The Office actively participated in the Annual Meeting of Directors of Human Rights Institutes, convened by UNESCO in Paris on 19 and 20 March 1998, which was attended by over 30 human rights institutes and UNESCO Chairs from all over the world. The focus of the meeting was on national and regional strategies for human rights education and on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. Non-governmental organizations

27. The Office has actively continued to assist and support human rights education programmes by non-governmental organizations through the provision of advice and publications (see chap. III below). Several international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council have informed the Office of their contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/127 as set out below.

28. Amnesty International recently issued: (a) a publicity package produced to help mark and outline its campaign to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (b) a manual for teachers and others who work with young people and who want to introduce human rights into their educational practices, entitled *First Steps: A Manual for Starting Human Rights Education*; (c) a training methodological tool, entitled *Amnesty's Twelve-Point Guide for Good Practice in the Training and Education for Human Rights of Governmental Officials*; (d) *International Human Rights Standards and Education*, an

analysis of provisions of major international instruments concerning human rights education; and (e) the fifth volume of Amnesty's *Human Rights Education* bibliography. In addition, Amnesty International has started issuing a newsletter, *HRE – Human Rights Education*, which is being widely disseminated (and to the second issue of which the Office contributed an article on the Decade for Human Rights Education). In addition, the Human Rights Educator's Network of Amnesty International USA has forwarded to the Office a publication, entitled *Human Rights Here and Now! Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, prepared by various non-governmental organizations in the United States of America, which includes background information on human rights history and standards, activities for different age groups and ideas for taking action, as well as various human rights documents.

29. The Canadian Human Rights Foundation advised that it is specialized in human rights education. In addition to its annual human rights training programme for non-governmental activist organizations in Montreal, it organizes training sessions in South-East Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and francophone Africa. Main themes of focus are the legal protection of women migrant workers, women's human rights, ethnic minorities and refugees, and the functioning of national institutions. The organization Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation has informed the Office that it is actively involved in the dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through public gatherings and the distribution of human rights information packages. The Education Centre for Women in Democracy has been lobbying the authorities of Kenya concerning the national implementation of the Decade for Human Rights Education, in particular with regard to the establishment of a broadly based national committee responsible for developing a national human rights education plan.

30. The International Federation of Associations of the Elderly will contribute to human rights awareness by commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration during its international meeting in October 1998 and by mobilizing its member organizations in this regard. The International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture (IFACAT) organizes periodically national and local human rights training programmes through its member organizations. In addition, it published pedagogical and other materials regarding human rights. In November 1998, IFACAT will be holding a training seminar for its members to discuss strategies and challenges regarding the problem of torture.

31. The FoodFirst Information and Action Network established, in 1995, an international standing committee on human rights education and training. At the same time it organized an international conference to evaluate human rights education needs on the basis of the Network's experience. As a follow-up, regional and national human rights training and workshops (in particular, with peasant groups, local action groups, school and university teachers, advocates and legislators) have been organized and relevant training materials developed. The General Arab Women Federation is promoting the human rights of women and is addressing the problem of violence against women. In these areas, it has been conducting studies, supporting women's organizations, organizing courses and seminars to promote awareness of the human rights of women and publishing related documents.

32. The International Academy of Architecture has been promoting the right to adequate housing through the organization of workshops and seminars. The International Council of Environmental Law is publishing articles on environmental issues which have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights; it is also actively participating in the drafting by the Economic Commission for Europe of the new convention on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. The International Human Rights Association of American Minorities has established the Institute on International Legal Studies which develops programmes and training sessions in international human rights law. The International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, which works primarily in India, is organizing human rights conferences and seminars, has issued several publications and has organized a human rights exhibition and human rights training programmes for professional groups and educational activities in schools and for village leaders.

33. The International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education organizes each summer, at Geneva, in collaboration with many international partners including the Office of the High Commissioner and UNESCO, the Summer University on Human Rights, an international postgraduate programme launched in 1995 within the framework of the Decade which offers a special focus on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to education. The International Peace Bureau has launched a worldwide peace campaign to culminate with a major peace congress which is to be held at The Hague in May 1999. In this context, it is organizing a preparatory peace education conference, to be held at Geneva in November 1998, which is to be attended by students, youth educators, peace and

human rights activists, non-governmental organizations and professionals from various countries.

34. International Prison Watch is focusing on: the human rights training of prison personnel, with the agreement of governmental authorities, in some African, Latin American and Middle East countries; the training of human rights activists and dissemination of related documents; and the question of education, including human rights education, in prisons. An international survey was recently published in connection with the latter.

35. The regular programme of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims includes the dissemination of information about human rights, and in particular about torture, its prevention and treatment, through various means, such as publications, media campaigns, regional advocacy activities and the maintaining of a well-developed documentation centre. The Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre has been organizing human rights training courses, awareness programmes, youth leadership courses, women's leadership courses and training of trainers within tribal and rural areas of India. The organization Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference organized international congresses on children's rights, held vigils, carried out petition and letter writing campaigns, and developed related information tools including a video.

36. The Servicio Paz y Justicia works mainly in schools, organizing teachers' training, workshops and national competitions. It also sponsors courses by correspondence for those interested in human rights and publishes the quarterly review, *Educación y Derechos Humanos. Cuaderno para Docentes*. Recently, it produced an itinerant exhibition on the Universal Declaration. Also, Soka Gakkai International has organized the itinerant exhibition, *Towards a Century of Humanity – Human Rights in Today's World*, aimed at raising public awareness about human rights, which comprises more than 150 display panels and opened at the United Nations University headquarters in Tokyo. In addition, the organization is working with the Office on another exhibition to be inaugurated in December 1998. The World Organization of Former Pupils of Catholic Education informed the Office that it contributes to human rights education by actively participating in international meetings in that regard.

C. Components four and five: Strengthening national and local programmes and capacities for human rights education

37. At the national level, the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education provides for the establishment, upon the initiative of Governments or other relevant institutions, of a national committee for human rights education, which should include a broad coalition of governmental and non-governmental actors and should be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive (in terms of outreach), effective (in terms of educational strategies) and sustainable (over the long term) national plan of action for human rights education, in coordination with regional and international organizations. The Office of the High Commissioner developed guidelines to assist such national efforts, the text of which was made available to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (A/52/469/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

38. A number of Governments, such as those of Algeria, Argentina, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Ghana, Holy See, Italy, Japan, Malta, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, have reported related initiatives. Information on their activities has been provided in the previous reports of the High Commissioner. In the present section, only new information, forwarded to the Office in the period under review, is provided. Owing to constraints of space, no reference is made to educational activities carried out specifically as a contribution to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (such as commemorative panels and special events); that information can be retrieved from the Web site page of the Office dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary.

39. In Austria, the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs has focused on the introduction of human rights education in Austrian schools, a programme supported by the Department of Civic Education and the Service Centre for Human Rights Education, established within the framework of the Decade at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. Among the various activities undertaken, workshops and training of teachers are organized and appropriate material, such as the UNESCO publication *Human Rights – Questions and Answers*, are disseminated.

40. The Ministry of Education in Chile has informed the Office that some related activities have been undertaken at the school level, such as the implementation of the education and democracy and women programmes, which include the dissemination of human rights pedagogical materials in

schools, the training of teachers and the organization of school competitions. The Ministry noted, however, that in order to properly implement activities of the Decade at the national level, an inter-ministerial task force would need to be created.

41. In France, the National Committee for Human Rights Education presented a report on the civic and human rights education curricula at the secondary school level, which illustrates the pedagogical objectives, the contents and reference materials for such courses.

42. The Government of Germany informed the Office that its contribution to the Decade is focusing on three areas. First, human rights education in schools where, even if the federal states have sovereignty over their school systems, the Basic Law, Lander Constitutions, laws, and legal and administrative regulations and several resolutions of the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs specify human rights education as one of the educational objectives in all federal states. Accordingly, human rights education is deeply rooted in a number of subjects in schools of all types and at all levels. Second, a public relations and information campaign, aimed at encouraging the integration of foreigners and the dismantling of mutual prejudices among citizens through an information service, editorial services for local newsletters, radio programmes for foreigners and Germans and seminars for people working with foreigners. Third, some development cooperation projects aim at creating learning conditions which will enable broad sections of the population to gain insights into social and administrative processes and thus to exercise their rights.

43. The Government of India has constituted a Coordination Committee, under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary, comprising secretaries of other ministries and departments. The Committee requested the National Human Rights Commission to draw up a national plan of action for human rights education, to be focused vigorously by the Committee. Priority areas have been identified; these include the introduction of human rights education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels; the inclusion of a qualification in human rights for recruitment in various professional categories; the preparation of training materials and organization of training courses for professional and other groups, such as security forces, doctors, lawyers, judicial officers, governmental officials, politicians, non-governmental organizations, trade unionists, religious organizations and village-level functionaries; and the organization of debates and seminars on human rights for the general public.

44. As a contribution to the Decade, the Government of Morocco developed, as a joint effort of the Ministry of National Education and the Human Rights Ministry, a nine-year (1995–2004) project for the introduction of human rights education at the primary and secondary school levels, which is articulated in the following three aspects: the elaboration of pedagogical materials; the revision of school textbooks and curricula; and the training of teachers. The Government requested and obtained for the implementation of the project assistance from international organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Commission.

45. The Federal Department of the Interior of Switzerland informed the Office that it has appealed to the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Public Education to enhance human rights education in schools. In addition, it has advised various national agencies and non-governmental organizations which regularly organize human rights education and public information campaigns, such as the Federal Commission against Racism, the Swiss Foundation "Education and Development" and the Swiss League for Human Rights.

46. The Government of Ukraine informed the Office that, also within the framework of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, several human rights educational activities are being undertaken within the formal education system, such as the dissemination of teaching materials and textbooks, the establishment of human rights courses at the secondary school and university levels, and a nationwide essay competition.

47. It is noteworthy that the Sixth Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific region, February 1998 and attended by governmental representatives from 36 countries, adopted the framework of a regional technical cooperation programme in the Asian and Pacific region aimed at strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, as a means of facilitating possible regional arrangements. Among the four areas of activity identified in the framework were national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights, and human rights education.[5]

D. Component six: Coordinated development of materials for human rights education

48. Work has continued on the six training packages to support the training activities addressed to professional and other target groups, such as human rights monitors, judges and lawyers, prison officers, primary and secondary school teachers, journalists, and national and local non-governmental organizations, which are being undertaken by the Office and by national committees and training centres for human rights education. In the development of these materials, the Office works in close cooperation with relevant specialized experts and organizations.

49. Two related expert meetings were organized by the Office at Geneva during the period under review. The first expert meeting, held in October 1997, reviewed the draft handbook on conflict resolution. The second expert meeting, held in March 1998, reviewed the draft human rights training package for prison officials. The training package is intended to constitute a comprehensive curriculum for the training of prison officials on international human rights standards, to be adapted case by case to the particular national needs and legal systems. Participants in the meeting were practitioners and experts in the field, the Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa, appointed by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Professor Victor Dankwa; the representatives of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Council of Europe. The draft training package will be revised on the basis of substantive comments made by the participants and, before publication, will be further piloted through forthcoming courses to be offered to prison officials through the programme of technical cooperation of the Office.

50. The Office has continued the production of human rights publications, a list of which appears in the annex to the present report, and has continued their dissemination among governmental and non-governmental organizations. Detailed information on related initiatives undertaken by the Office and by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat is provided in chapters III and IV below. In the present section, reference is made only to the three publications which complement the above-mentioned guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education, which are currently being finalized: (a) *The Right to Human Rights Education*, a compilation of full texts and/or excerpts of international instruments pertaining to human rights education; (b) *Human Rights Trainers' Guide*, a methodological approach to the human rights training of professional groups; and (c) *Human Rights Education Programming*, which includes ideas and suggestions for the implementation of targeted human rights educational programmes regarding public awareness, the schooling sector and other priority groups, and a resource guide to assist in programme implementation.

E. Component seven: Strengthening the role of the mass media

51. The Office is working on a training package for journalists (see sect. D above) to increase the incorporation by the media of human rights information and public education into their work. In addition, the Office is still evaluating the possibility of establishing a media advisory board to support the High Commissioner's activities in this area, as provided in the Decade Plan of Action. Finally, the Office and the Department of Public Information have increased their media public information activities in the field of human rights within the framework of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see sect. IV below).

F. Component eight: Global dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

52. Since February 1997, a task force within the Office of the High Commissioner has been active in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1997–10 December 1998).

53. The role of the Office in the commemoration has been to facilitate, support and encourage initiatives developed by all partners: Governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and national institutions. In this regard, the Office answers every day to related queries by all of those partners. The slogan "All Human Rights for All", together with a specific logo, has been developed and is marking all related activities. A special section of the Web site of the Office has been devoted to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration (see chap. III, sect. B, below). To facilitate information-sharing, the Office is publishing a series of basic information kits, under the title *1998: Fiftieth*

Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see paras. 70-72 below). To enhance cooperation within the United Nations system, the Office has convened an inter-agency group which has been meeting regularly since late 1997 to discuss individual or joint initiatives in connection with the fiftieth anniversary.

54. A specific programme for the fiftieth anniversary is being implemented by the Office. The major components of the programme are: (a) a human rights education and public information campaign; (b) provision of support to grass-roots initiatives (e.g., ACT project; see sect. B above); (c) commemorative events in United Nations forums; and (d) the convening of a series of human rights panels. The activities undertaken in the area of human rights education and public information in the field of human rights are described below.

55. As at August 1998, the Office has collected more than 215 national and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and some 60 additional versions (in pictorial, audio-visual and other formats). In the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, the Office is currently making available, thanks to a generous contribution by the Government of San Marino, all language versions collected. The new Web site page containing more than 250 versions will be launched on 10 December 1998 (the list of language versions currently being made available by the Office is contained in the annex to the present report). This project actively involves ITU, the Department of Public Information and the United Nations information centres and services throughout the world, as well as several national and local non-governmental organizations which have generously placed their language skills at the disposal of the Office.

56. In addition, UNESCO and the Office have implemented a joint project for the broad dissemination of the Universal Declaration in schools. By means of this project, ministers of education have been provided with resource materials (including materials to produce posters to be disseminated in all schools) to help educational establishments to give human rights education a special focus during 1998.

57. The preparation of the fourth issue of the basic information kits, under the title *1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and which focus on human rights education, is also a means for supporting educational activities by all interested partners. Other related activities undertaken by the Office and by the Department of Public Information are highlighted below, respectively in section III and IV.

III. Other public information activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Publications programme

58. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has continued its efforts to streamline and focus its publications programme. There remain a number of difficulties insofar as the storage and stocktaking of publications, which the Publications Board of the Office is duly studying with a view to taking appropriate measures. The budget of the Office for the biennium 1998–1999 for the printing of information and reference materials is US$ 230,700.

59. According to a rough estimate for the first quarter of 1998, the Office has distributed more than 10,000 human rights publications, in addition to the 3,000 copies of each publication which are distributed by the Distribution Section at the United Nations Office at Geneva through the mailing list established by the Office.

1. Fact Sheet Series

60. The Fact Sheet Series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, addressing various aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, including international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, or specific human rights issues. Fact sheets are published in the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed throughout the world free of charge.

61. New linguistic versions of existing fact sheets have been issued: No. 6 (Rev.2), *Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*, in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish; No. 9 (Rev.1), *The Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, in French and Spanish; No. 11 (Rev. 1), *Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions*, in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish; No. 18 (Rev. 1), *Minority Rights*, in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish; No. 23, *Harmful Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children*, in Chinese.

62. Special attention has been paid to the revision and updating of existing issues. Revised versions of Fact Sheet No. 11, *Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions*, Fact Sheet No. 18, *Minority Rights*, and the second revision of Fact Sheet No. 6, *Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*, have been published in English. The first

revision of Fact Sheet No. 1, *Human Rights Machinery*, is being edited. The second revision of Fact Sheet No. 3, *Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights*, is under preparation.

63. Notwithstanding the increasing demand, a reprint of fact sheets has not been possible owing to the financial crisis. In October 1995, the Office was informed that reprints would have to be funded by the Office itself which does not have funds for that purpose.

2. Professional Training Series

64. An important teaching and educational tool is the established Professional Training Series, designed primarily to provide support to the training activities of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, as well as to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups. The manuals and guides are issued as United Nations sales publications.

65. The Office, in collaboration with the International Training Centre of ILO at Turin, Italy, is continuing to publish a training package on human rights reporting in English, composed of three distinctive elements: a manual, a trainer's guide with annexes (including training tools) and a pocket guide. The manual has been published while the trainer's guide and the pocket guide are being edited. The Spanish version is currently being translated. Additional funds are being sought to finance translation and printing in the other official languages of the United Nations.

66. Professional Training Series No. 5, *Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police*, and its pocket guide (No. 5/Add. 1), *International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement*, have been translated and issued in French and Spanish. Translation and printing in the other official languages are not envisaged owing to the lack of funding.

3. Human Rights Study Series

67. The Human Rights Study Series reproduces studies and reports on important human rights issues, prepared by experts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The studies are issued as United Nations sales publications.

68. Study Series No. 10, *Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous Peoples*, has been published in Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish, and Study Series No. 9, *Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms Applicable to Internally Displaced Persons*, is being printed in English. Additional funds are being sought to finance the translations and printing of the latter document in the other official languages.

4. Notes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

69. In the effort to streamline and focus the publications programme of the Office, its Publications Board decided to discontinue the series of Notes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the content of which was overlapping with the Fact Sheet Series.

5. 1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, basic information kits

70. The series of basic information kits is intended as a working tool for agencies, programmes, non-governmental organizations and national institutions, as well as individuals, in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Basic information kits are published in French, English and Spanish and are distributed throughout the world free of charge.

71. Basic information kit No. 1, *1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, has been published in English, French and Spanish; basic information kit No. 2, *Women's Rights the Responsibility of All*, has been published in English, French and Spanish; basic information kit No. 3, *Children's Rights: Creating a Culture of Human Rights*, has been published in English and Spanish and is being printed in French. Forthcoming issues, which focus on human rights education and human rights defenders, are under preparation.

72. Because of the increasing demand, basic information kits Nos. 1 and 2 have been reprinted in all available languages.

6. Ad hoc publications

73. Ad hoc publications may consist of reports and proceedings of conferences, workshops and other events held under the auspices of the Office, and other documents issued on an ad hoc basis.

74. A new issue, *HIV/AIDS and Human Rights – International Guidelines*, has been published in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and is currently being translated into Chinese. A second issue, *United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004): Lessons for Life*, is being printed in the six official languages.

7. Reference materials

75. The reference publications of the Office of the High Commissioner, which are issued as United Nations sales publications, are directed to a more specialized audience.

76. Recent initiatives undertaken in this regard are as follows:

(a) *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, volume 1, containing universal instruments, is currently under revision;

(b) *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments – Regional Instruments*, volume 2, containing regional instruments, has been published in English. Translation into the other official languages is being considered;

(c) The last issue of *Human Rights: International Instruments: Chart of Ratifications*, which appeared in 1998, contains information updated as at 31 December 1997. A new revision updated as at 30 June 1998 is being edited.

8. Periodicals

77. A new 32-page professional quarterly review of the Office of the High Commissioner, entitled *Human Rights*, is being produced. The magazine reflects the full breadth of the human rights concerns of the Office: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as the right to development. The articles, written in English and in French, cover the various aspects of the work of the Office, including the activities of the High Commissioner, treaty bodies, special procedures, field offices, technical cooperation, research and information. The quarterly is printed in 13,000 copies and distributed throughout the world free of charge. So far, issues No. 1 (Winter 1997/1998), No. 2 (Spring 1998) and No. 3 (Summer 1998) have been published.

9. Promotional materials

78. In addition to the publications, the Office produces promotional materials designed to ensure wide dissemination of information on human rights activities. A 12-page brochure, *OHCHR Facts and Figures*, and a folder are under preparation.

B. Use of electronic means

79. The Web site of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (http://www.unhchr.ch) is the most complete source of information available on the Internet concerning United Nations action in the field of human rights. The site, launched on 10 December 1996, provides access to the texts of more than 90 international human rights treaties, declarations and bodies of principle, including, where available, the status of ratifications; the complete text of all official United Nations reports and resolutions relevant to human rights issued from 1996, as well as most of those issued in 1994 and 1995; and a link to the treaty bodies database made public for the first time through the Web site. A local search engine, a site map and a subject index facilitate access to information and make the site more user-friendly.

80. The most important recent development has been the launching of the French and Spanish versions of the site, on 10 December 1997, both of which include all relevant menus and background information, as well as all United Nations reports and resolutions relevant to human rights issued from 10 December 1997. Also new is the daily updating of the home page which contains the most recent information regarding the United Nations human rights programme.

81. During 1998, a special segment of the Web site has been devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The site contains all relevant information related to the event, including guidelines for the use of the logo and the basic information kits published by the Office on the occasion of the anniversary. The site has also served as a means of enhancing international cooperation during this important period by offering to all interested partners a framework for sharing information and publicizing their planned activities throughout the world.

82. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Government of San Marino, and in cooperation with ITU, the Office is publishing on its Web site its collection of language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see chap. II, sect. F, above). More than 70 language versions can be read and printed from the Web site and up to 250 are expected to be available by 10 December 1998.

83. From the technical point of view, and in order to respond to the increasing number of visitors, the Office put into operation a more powerful and stable Web server platform. Since December 1997, the Web site has been hosted by a new Internet service provider with faster network facilities and advanced services.

84. As a general policy, the Web site of the Office is replacing static HTML information by dynamic databases, such as the already available treaty bodies database. Databases facilitate the maintenance and updating of the Web site, as well as access by visitors to information by increasing the number of criteria by which documents can be retrieved (e.g., country, human rights subject, year), speeding up the process of accessing the documents once

connected to them and enhancing search facilities. Future developments include the linking to the Web site of two already operational databases: a news database, containing press releases issued by the Department of Public Information, as well as briefing notes and statements; and a charter-based bodies documents database, containing the reports and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities which are already available on the site, in addition to relevant Security Council reports and resolutions and French and Spanish documents from previous years (up to 1995) not currently accessible on the Internet.

85. The projected reproduction of the Web site in a CD-ROM format before the end of 1998 will make it available to partners in countries which do not have Internet access or in which communications costs are so high that Internet access is, in practical terms, non-existent.

86. From 1 February to 15 March 1998, the Web site had an average of 5,908 user sessions per week; each session lasting an average of 13 minutes. In terms of user sessions, this represents an increase of 200 per cent since December 1997; this might be explained by the launching of the French and Spanish versions, the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and an enhanced presence of the Web site in global Internet searchers. The numbers prove the success of the project, reinforcing the commitment of the Office to work for the continuing maintenance, improvement and updating of the Web site.

C. External relations programme

1. Briefings

87. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organizes briefings on United Nations activities in the field of human rights and on specific human rights issues for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, professors and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Office also provides lectures for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the number of briefings has dramatically increased up to more than 250 during the reporting period.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

88. The Office of the High Commissioner participated in the open-house day organized at the Palais des Nations, on 21 October 1997. Stands with human rights publications were set up.

89. Since December 1997, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Office has dramatically increased its involvement in external relations activities, such as exhibits, round-table meetings and stands.

90. On 10 December 1997, a Human Rights Corner was inaugurated at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Corner, which will stay in place during 1998, displays books, posters, cartoons, videos and messages on human rights issues by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner. An estimate of 100,000 visitors will visit the Corner during 1998 and receive a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other informative materials, while taking the guided tour of the Palais des Nations. On the same day, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Office of the High Commissioner also organized the round-table meeting on the theme "All human rights for all: a critical appraisal", and the exhibition of illustrations by David Roth of the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration in the Palais des Nations.

91. In connection with International Women's Day on 8 March 1998, the Office of the High Commissioner organized a round-table meeting which focused on violence against women and on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

92. On 16 March 1998, on the occasion of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner organized the forum, "Dialogue on mainstreaming human rights in the United Nations". The forum was moderated by the Secretary-General and was attended by 16 heads of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies. On the same day, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Office also organized two exhibits. The first exhibit was of 30 lithographs, each depicting an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which were donated by His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain to the United Nations in 1984; the exhibit was inaugurated by the Secretary-General. The second exhibit displayed 34 panels of articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, photographs and 24 graphic towers which described various aspects of United Nations involvement in human rights issues.

93. On 20 March 1998, on the occasion of the International Day against Racial Discrimination, the Office of the High

Commissioner organized a round-table meeting focusing on the role of human rights education and information against racism. On 26 March 1998, the Office organized a round-table meeting on the theme "Benchmarks for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights" as a contribution to efforts aimed at identifying such benchmarks and as a means of discussing strategies for monitoring the implementation of those rights.

94. On 4 June 1998, on the occasion of the inauguration of Palais Wilson (the new headquarters of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), the Office participated in an open-house day with a stand, the wide dissemination of human rights publications and public demonstrations of its Web site.

95. In August 1998, as a further promotion of the rights of the disabled, the Office organized an exhibit by artists who paint by means of mouth and foot, which was opened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. On 8 and 9 August 1998, on the occasion of the Fête de Genève, the Office displayed a stand with human rights publications. Thousands of copies of informative material on human rights, including the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were distributed. A drawing competition on human rights was launched for children from 3 to 14 years. Winners will be invited to meet with the High Commissioner in the autumn of 1998, and winning drawings will be on display at the Palais Wilson.

3. Fellowship programme

96. In resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, the General Assembly made direct provision for the human rights fellowship programme, under which assistance provided by the Secretary-General is to be rendered in agreement with Governments and at their request.

97. In 1997, the 10-day programme was devoted to the training of public officials on reporting under international human rights treaties, and was held at the Central European University at Budapest. Twenty-five fellows from 22 countries attended. The aims of the programme were to familiarize participants with the international and regional systems of protection of human rights and procedures to be followed for the preparation of relevant reports, and to provide participants with the requested training tools in order to guarantee an element of continuity through the replication of training at the national level for relevant governmental departments.

4. Internship programme

98. During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights offered internships to graduate students so as to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations action and procedures in the field of human rights by actively participating in the work of the Organization under the direct supervision of its staff members. The internship does not consist of a predefined programme and interns are placed according to the needs of the Office and to their area of interest.

99. No funding has been made available for the programme; internships are awarded with no financial commitment of any kind on the part of the Office or United Nations bodies. This lack of funds to support the interns has resulted in particularly low participation by students from developing countries (some 90 per cent of the interns are from developed countries). The need for funding of interns from developing countries remains an important consideration.

IV. Activities of the Department of Public Information in the field of human rights

100. The Department of Public Information continued to initiate and coordinate activities within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, which currently coincide with the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Department's multimedia approach strives to ensure effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities, as well as the distribution of relevant human rights information material throughout the world. This work is also being carried out within the framework of three other ongoing decades: the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993–2003; the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995–2004; and the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997–2006.

101. The Department continues to have a mandate under the thematic heading of human rights but also carries out other mandated programmes in such related areas as social, cultural and economic rights, the rights of specific groups, and other major issues including, *inter alia*, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. The Department's related activities

are reported to the General Assembly on a regular basis and to other intergovernmental bodies under each specific area or issue.

A. Activities at United Nations Headquarters in the field of human rights

102. The multimedia approach of the Department includes the production of printed materials, such as brochures, background information notes, posters and media kits, regarding United Nations work in the field of human rights. These materials are produced in various languages and disseminated mainly through the network of 68 United Nations information centres and services and the 8 United Nations offices throughout the world. The material is also disseminated electronically and is available on the World Wide Web on the United Nations home page in English, French and Spanish. The multimedia approach also entails radio and television programmes; press conferences, press briefings and special events; exhibits; special media outreach activities; activities with educational organizations and non-governmental organizations; and public services for visitors and enquiries.

103. During the reporting period, the Department actively pursued its information campaign on human rights issues. Because of the great demand for publications, the Department printed or reprinted and widely disseminated, *inter alia*, the following materials, among others:

(a) Poster-cum-brochure on human rights education on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1653) in Arabic (5,000), Russian (5,000) and Chinese (3,000);

(b) Poster on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (DPI/1813) in English (21,000), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000);

(c) Poster on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1900) in a multilingual version (70,000) and a reprint of 70,000;

(d) Logo reproduction sheet on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1928) in English (20,000) and a reprint of 15,000;

(e) Text reproduction sheet on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1929) in a multilingual version (20,000) and a reprint of 15,000;

(f) Press kit cover on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1937) in English (10,000) and French (5,000);

(g) Background note on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "A Magna Charta for all humanity" (DPI/1937/A) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(h) Background note on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Indigenous people: challenges facing the international community" (DPI/1937/B) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(i) Background note on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Human rights in action: monitoring compliance" (DPI/1937/C) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(j) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Mary Robinson – biographical note" (DPI/1937/D) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(k) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, speech by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Realizing human rights: taking hold ..." (DPI/1937/E) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(l) Background note on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "The right to development" (DPI/1937/F) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(m) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Universal Declaration of Human Rights illuminates global pluralism", speech made by the Secretary-General at Tehran University (DPI/1937/G) in English (20,000) and French (10,000);

(n) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, brochure entitled "The United Nations at your fingertips: questions and answers" (DPI/1940) in English (20,000) (French version available on the United Nations Web site);

(o) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, bookmark (DPI/1945) in English/French (25,000);

(p) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, brochure (DPI/1967) in English (25,000).

104. The above-mentioned print materials, as well as press releases and United Nations documents, are distributed electronically to the network of information centres and services, in addition to being posted on the United Nations Web site. During the reporting period, 336 press releases on human rights issues were distributed in English and French. In addition, the Department reissues Geneva press releases on the Human Rights Committee, other treaty bodies and the

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in order to ensure wide dissemination. These press releases are also posted on the United Nations home page which receives 1.7 million hits per week.

105. The *Yearbook of the United Nations*, published each year, devotes a separate three-chapter section to all aspects of human rights. The chapters highlight the work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and discusses in detail the implementation of all human rights conventions. In addition, it summarizes reports of special rapporteurs and allegations of violations of human rights which are the subject of action by United Nations bodies.

106. The second edition in the publication series *United Nations Briefing Papers* is devoted to United Nations work in the area of human rights. The 85-page book, *Human Rights Today: A United Nations Priority*, was made available in English in early September 1998 and will be followed by French and Spanish versions later in 1998. The new edition of the publication *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, published in English in early September, contains a completely revised chapter on the United Nations and human rights, reflecting the centrality of the issue to the work of the Organization. It will also be published in French and Spanish later in 1998. The revised edition of the publication *Image and Reality* will contain additional questions on the United Nations and human rights. It is scheduled to be published in English in October 1998, followed by French and Spanish.

107. The publication *Africa Recovery* (vol. 12, No. 1, and vol. 11, Nos. 3 and 4) carried articles pertaining to human rights in Sierra Leone, Angola and Africa in general. In addition, the Department of Public Information published in April 1998 a briefing paper, entitled "Women in Africa's development", which looked at obstacles, including human rights issues, affecting women in Africa.

108. The publication *UN Chronicle* will devote a substantial part of issue No. 4 (1998) to human rights issues in the particular context of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. At the invitation of the Secretary-General, four Nobel Laureates have contributed brief essays with their perceptions on the significance of the Declaration, to be published in the Chronicle. The publication now carries on a regular basis the "RightsWatch" section; in issue 3, the Director-General of UNESCO analyses the human rights dimensions of the ethics of cloning. Analytical articles on specific areas of human rights concern, including violence against women and the brutalization of children, are featured in each issue. Upcoming contributions include one on the massacre of the innocents, resulting from the effects of armed conflict on children, as well as coverage of international measures to address the sexual exploitation of children.

109. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has carried out various activities on human rights: (a) a human rights site which lists selected United Nations and non-United Nations Web sites was posted on the intranet (Cyberlinks); (b) a special training course, entitled "Human rights: resources on the World Wide Web" was designed and added to the training programme of the Library; and (c) the Library requested its network of depository libraries to organize activities to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Day. Among other activities, it posted a special section on human rights on its home page in May 1998, which constitutes a guide on United Nations bodies in the field of human rights and their documentation. Links are provided wherever available to the full text of the documents located on United Nations Web sites.

110. The Sales Section of the Department of Public Information is preparing a catalogue of human rights publications to be mailed out from Headquarters in September. A total of 50,000 catalogues will be distributed to libraries, academics, international lawyers and relevant individuals in non-governmental organizations and Governments. A similar catalogue is being prepared by the Sales Office at Geneva for distribution in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The Sales Office at Geneva has produced a special illustrated book by the artist William Wilson, which brings to life the powerful text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A special line of souvenir items has been developed by the Sales Office at Geneva to promote the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These souvenirs include T-shirts, pens, mugs, backpacks, watches, key tags, tote bags and special books. The souvenirs are being sold in both the New York and Geneva bookshops and will also be featured in the book catalogues mentioned above, other promotional flyers and on the Internet.

111. A number of activities relating to human rights have been completed by the Video Section of United Nations Television in the reporting period. Historical archival material and a public service announcement on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in six languages were transmitted by satellite to international television organizations and national broadcasters in December 1997. A second human rights television and radio

spot is currently being completed in association with the New York-based Bozell Advertizing Agency.

112. Guests discussing aspects of human rights have been featured on the United Nations Television discussion show "World Chronicle". The United Nations Television series of news magazine items, "UN in Action", which is distributed in five languages to broadcasters in more than 100 countries and which is also shown on the programme "CNN World", has focused on human rights stories during the period under review. A compilation of United Nations Television human rights stories won the Intercom Silver Plaque Award at the prestigious Chicago International Film Festival in 1998. A major feature documentary on the origins and development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is being produced by United Nations Television and was completed in 30-minute and 50-minute versions in English by the end of September 1998.

113. During the reporting period, United Nations Radio covered all aspects of human rights and related issues in its news bulletin, current affairs magazine and regional magazine programmes. The following topics, among others, were covered in the official and non-official languages, for regional and worldwide dissemination: the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; atrocities against women and children in armed conflicts; reproductive health; rape as a crime against humanity; the struggle to help save the Brazilian rainforest and its indigenous population; child soldiers, child labour and the child sex trade; genocide, brutal massacres and killings of refugees in Rwanda; the year-long observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with the First Lady of the United States of America; prostitution; protecting the human rights of the people with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; civil and political rights; water as a basic human right; poverty and human rights; victims of torture around the world; food security as a fundamental right; interview with the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance; promoting the rights of the child; a United Nations human rights expert discussing the question of the death penalty; the International Day of the World's Indigenous People; and human rights and democracy.

114. In addition, United Nations Radio produced 33 feature programmes exclusively devoted to the question of human rights, in English, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, French, French-Creole, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Among these programmes were:

(a) In English, "Mary Robinson – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" (adapted into Hindi, Chinese, Indonesian, Kiswahili and Turkish); "Defenders of human rights – United Nations Special rapporteurs" (adapted into Indonesiana nd Turkish); "The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights"; "Are water resources a basic human right? A look at southern Africa within the African context"; "Launching of the 1998 global campaign for women's human rights"; "With the help of UNICEF and others: a campaign against the numbers of girls forced into commercial sexual exploitation in Nepal"; and "Women's rights to inherit land and property in areas of conflict";

(b) In French, "The Oslo Conference on Child Labour"; "Report of Amnesty International: violence in Algeria and human rights in Burundi"; "International Criminal Court on the verge of creation"; "The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; "Human right to development, parts 1 and 2"; and "Human rights: Amnesty International and the United Nations";

(c) In French-Creole, "Why is it important to nurture the growth of journalism in a democracy?"; "The fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; "United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: a new concept of human rights"; "The position of Ivory Coast on the concept of the human right to development"; and "The independent expert on Haiti submits his report to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva";

(d) In Kiswahili, "Good governance and gender equality"; "Human rights and grass-roots women of Africa: need for democracy"; and "United Nations expert talks about victims of torture around the world";

(e) In Portuguese, "Human rights in the Great Lakes region";

(f) In Russian, "Convention against torture"; "The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Is there cause to celebrate?"; "Human rights and women's rights"; and "The United Nations and protection of human rights in Georgia";

(g) In Spanish, "Forced disappearances"; "Indigenous people ask for more representation at the United Nations: Garifunas of Honduras"; "Eradication of child labour"; "Rapporteurs: eyes, ears and hands of the Commission on Human Rights"; and "Mayan youth embark on a new road";

(h) In Turkish, "The right to choose: reproductive rights and reproductive health".

115. United Nations Radio also organized and hosted a live one-hour worldwide radio broadcast with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 26 September 1997. The High Commissioner fielded questions on a range of human rights issues from journalists at 10 radio networks around the world. The show was broadcast on five continents and also posted on the Internet. In addition, United Nations Radio also produced a special series of 10 featurettes in English exploring major issues of population concern in the context of human rights.

116. Special events to observe international days or years have been another way of promoting human rights issues. These are organized by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters, and the United Nations information centres and services undertake such activities at the national and local levels to publicize United Nations human rights work.

117. The Department continued its close cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations. On 10 December 1997, Human Rights Day was observed in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters for the launch of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Speakers included: Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America; Philip Alston, Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Population Fund; Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York; and Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature.

118. Also on the occasion of Human Rights Day in 1997, the Department held a special event involving students and teachers at United Nations Headquarters. In this interactive event, each participating school made a formal presentation on human rights, in the form of a group essay or a speech. In another initiative launched in December 1997, the Department invited schools in the United States of America to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through various activities.

119. A photographic exhibit to commemorate the anniversary of the Declaration was designed by the Department of Public Information and displayed at United Nations Headquarters from December 1997 to end-March 1998. The exhibit then travelled to Geneva for the Commission on Human Rights, from mid-March to end-April. A portion of the exhibit was then on display at Ottawa, and will travel to Washington, D.C., and Ramapo College in New Jersey, United States of America, before returning to United Nations Headquarters for Human Rights Day in December 1998. A collection of human rights lithographs presented to the Secretary-General by the King of Spain in 1984 travelled to four locations in Europe in 1998, with the design assistance and organizational support of the Department of Public Information. In order to promote public awareness of human rights, the Department is also designing billboards on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the New York City and San Francisco airports.

120. On 5 March 1998, the Department organized a commemoration of International Women's Day, on the topic "Women and human rights". Features speakers included the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who presented the keynote address; the Deputy Secretary-General; the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women; Musimbi Kanyoro, General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association; and Patricia Flor, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women.

121. In preparation for the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 1998, the Department produced a two-page information sheet which was distributed to United Nations information offices and journalists. At United Nations Headquarters, the Department coordinated a press conference featuring the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Dr. Allen Keller of the Bellevue/New York University Programme for Torture Survivors. The Department also helped to organize an exhibit in the public lobby at United Nations Headquarters, co-sponsored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Council for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims. The exhibit was opened on 26 June 1998 by the Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner and Ambassador Jorgen Bojer of the Permanent Mission of Denmark.

122. The Department, in cooperation with the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information organized the fifty-first annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Conference which took place at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 16 September 1998. The theme of the Conference was "The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to deeds". The three-day event focused on the impact that the Declaration has had on societies around the world. Panel discussions addressed human rights issues and the universality of human rights; the impact of globalization on development; cross-border issues; building and strengthening human rights institutions, as well as the relationship between human rights and peace; and

human rights education. More than 2,400 representatives of non-governmental organizations attended the Conference.

123. In its outreach activities, particularly as they relate to students and educators, the Department has consistently promoted a better understanding and knowledge of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was reissued with a parallel read-easy version and classroom exercises. Two new publications produced specifically for students at intermediate and secondary levels, *This is the United Nations* (DPI/1938) and *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the United Nations* (DPI/1888), extensively covered human rights issues. Selected portions of *Teaching About Human Rights*, a teaching manual, were also reissued for use by teachers. Each month, the Department forwards several hundred information packets to teachers, which include the Universal Declaration and other human rights-related material.

124. The Department, in association with various partners both within and outside the United Nations, arranged several workshops for teachers. In August 1997, over 100 teachers of grades 5 to 12 participated in a training workshop on peace and justice. A similar workshop for about 200 New York City public school teachers was held in November 1997. A central focus of both workshops was how to teach human rights in the classroom. In 1998, under an arrangement with the United Federation of Teachers and the New York Board of Education, the Department arranged several workshops for teachers, each of which included teaching about human rights.

125. During the period under review, the Department arranged 57 briefings on issues related to human rights. Senior officials of the United Nations, including representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed students, teachers and non-governmental organizations. A total of 5,000 enquiries from the public were handled. A growing number of enquiries are from students and are received through electronic mail. Human rights issues continue to be covered in the Headquarters guided tours. With illustrated versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on display, visitors learn from professional guides about the role of the United Nations in promoting and protecting human rights. An estimated 450,000 people visit United Nations Headquarters each year.

B. Activities of information centres and services

126. The United Nations Information Service at Geneva plays a special role in the promotion of the work of the United Nations concerning human rights, especially the activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Service provides sustained and in-depth support to all aspects of the work of the High Commissioner and the United Nations human rights programme, including press release coverage of treaty bodies at Geneva, the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and other human rights activities; regular briefings of the Geneva-based press; information support to the field; acting as Geneva spokesperson for the High Commissioner and the human rights programme; and briefings for Geneva-based non-governmental organizations, among others.

127. More than 59 United Nations information centres, services and offices commemorated Human Rights Day on 10 December 1997, helping to launch the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Working in cooperation with Governments and civil society around the world, the information centres organized press conferences, seminars and student rallies, produced radio and television programmes, and translated the Universal Declaration into more than 45 local languages, including 24 widely spoken indigenous languages. Some highlights of those activities are summarized below.

128. The United Nations information centre in London held a press conference with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to launch the anniversary commemorations. Twenty-four journalists from leading media outlets in both the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland attended. The United Nations information centres at Accra, Dhaka, Islamabad, Madrid, Rome and New Delhi and the United Nations information services at Bangkok and Geneva also held briefings to provide the media with the Secretary-General's message for the Day and background information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Press materials were distributed by others, both in hard copy and electronically, resulting in scores of published articles and news broadcasts. At the initiative of the United Nations information centre at Beirut, the daily *An-Nahar* devoted a news supplement to human rights, which was based on information materials provided by the Centre. The United Nations information service at Geneva recorded an interview with the High Commissioner for use in the Human Rights Day package of broadcast materials distributed by United Nations Television

at Headquarters. The United Nations information service at Geneva also organized a Eurovision transmission of the Human Rights Day television materials.

129. Many information centre directors gave television and radio interviews, including those in Buenos Aires, Mexico City, New Delhi, Paris and Rome, and as did the directors of the United Nations offices at Almaty and Minsk. Other centres succeeded in co-producing programmes with local television stations or in making arrangements for the airing of existing United Nations features on human rights. The United Nations information centre at Asuncion provided background notes and videos used in a 10-minute programme to commemorate Human Rights Day, broadcast by Channel 13. The Centre also set up a number of broadcast interviews for United Nations system partners and arranged for media coverage of the International Seminar on Policies for Human Rights Protection, held in Paraguay.

130. The United Nations information centre at Cairo helped to develop a two-hour radio quiz programme on human rights. The Centre at Islamabad provided Pakistan National Television with background materials and a video broadcast on Human Rights Day. The Centre at Rio de Janeiro co-produced, with the cable television channel Globo, a 15-minute segment presenting the historical perspective of United Nations work in the field of human rights. The Centre in Rome made arrangements with RAI television to emphasize human rights themes throughout Human Rights Day broadcasting: the morning news highlighted the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and an afternoon children's programme presented its basic principles in an educational game format. The Centre at Windhoek compiled the materials for a half-hour radio programme, co-produced with NBC National Radio.

131. In addition to translating into local languages the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Secretary-General's message on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its adoption, many United Nations information centres provided the same service regarding press materials on human rights produced by the Department of Public Information. This effort included translation of the background note "Fiftieth anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration: human rights conflicts" into Dutch and Farsi, by the information centres at Brussels and Tehran, respectively. The Centre at Brussels also co-produced, with the United Nations Association of Luxembourg, a bulletin entitled "All human rights for all". The centres at Tehran and Tokyo translated the background note "The World Conference on Human Rights" (DPI/1394/Rev.1) into Farsi and Japanese, respectively. The Centre at New Delhi translated "Submission of complaints about human rights violations" (DPI/1550) and "Body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment"(DPI/969) into Hindi. The centres at Colombo and Manila translated "The International Bill of Human Rights" (DPI/1925/Rev.1) into Sinhala and Tagalog, respectively. The centres at Islamabad and Maseru translated the poster of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1900) into Urdu and Sesotho, respectively. The Centre at Yangon distributed to the local public some 3,000 copies of the Universal Declaration that it had translated into Myanmar. The Centre at Buenos Aires, in collaboration with the Organization of Argentinean Youths, co-produced an interactive, educational four-diskette programme entitled "All human rights for all". Funded by Microsoft Argentina S.A. and Plus Ultra: Educational Solutions, the programme contains question-and-answer exercises for use in elementary, intermediate and secondary schools.

132. Rallies for audiences of all ages were held around the world. The United Nations information centre at Harare reports that hundreds attended a rally it organized, under the theme "March for your rights". The Centre at Islamabad, together with a group of non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues, held a well-attended public walk on Human Rights Day. The Centre at Port of Spain organized a youth rally at the University of the West Indies campus, where various aspects of human rights were discussed from the point of view of the Government, women's groups, civil society and the media. The Centre at Prague, against the background of increasing occurrences of racially motivated violence in the Czech Republic, organized a March of Silence in protest against racial hatred, followed by a multicultural gathering where the music was provided by refugee groups.

133. The information centres at Athens, Jakarta, Lisbon, Madrid, Manila and New Delhi held ceremonies where the keynote speaker highlighted United Nations objectives in the field of human rights. The Centre at Panama City, sponsored the launching of a book on human rights, which was based on United Nations information materials provided by the Centre. Similar book launchings were held by the centres at Manila and Rome. The Director of the Centre in Rome represented the High Commissioner for Human Rights at a ceremony held at the Florence Congress Palace, where her message focused on the need to abolish capital punishment. The Centre at Rabat arranged a film screening for secondary-school students and the Centre at Rio de Janeiro participated in a debate on the status of human rights protection around the world, held at the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Brazilian Bar Association. The United Nations

Office at Almaty held a high school "Sunday meeting", also to debate human rights issues.

134. The Department of Public Information provided all United Nations information centres with photographs depicting historical United Nations achievements in human rights, which were used to mount exhibits locally. The centres at Accra and Antananarivo mounted the photographs along with human rights posters during a week-long observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. The United Nations information service at Bangkok, in cooperation with the Thailand Research Fund, organized a seminar and exhibit at the United Nations Conference Centre. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva created a showcase, entitled "Human Rights Corner", where visitors to the Palais enjoyed visual displays, thematic videos and educational materials. The Centre at Lisbon mounted a photographic exhibit entitled "Families of the World Visit Portugal". The Centre at Manila, in collaboration with the Philippine Human Rights Commission, displayed the photographs in the province of Zambales, and has plans to mount the exhibit in all 12 regions of the country. The Centre at Maseru held an exhibit on United Nations human rights themes at the United Nations House in Lesotho. The Centre in Paris and the University of Nantes organized an open house and briefing for professors and students, for which the Centre also mounted an exhibit on human rights. The Centre at Tunis and the Cultural Institute of Bardo jointly mounted an exhibit, screened human rights films and distributed United Nations information materials at the Institute on Human Rights Day.

135. The Centre at Colombo was among the panellists at an event that focused on human rights, peace and democracy, held at the Human Rights Centre of the Sri Lanka Foundation for Human Rights. The United Nations Information Service at Geneva held a round-table meeting under the theme "All human rights for all: a critical appraisal". The Centre at Lagos organized a symposium, entitled "Meeting the challenges of human rights" where it presented a paper on roles and constraints of international organizations in the enforcement of human rights conventions. The Centre at Lima and the Minister for Human Development and Promotion of Women's Rights of Peru sponsored a round-table meeting on the rights of displaced persons.

136. The United Nations Information Centre at Mexico City and local non-governmental organizations jointly organized a seminar on human rights. The Director of the Centre at New Delhi delivered the keynote address on human rights education at a symposium organized by the Human Rights Education Movement of India. The Centre at Rabat and the Socialist Youth Association jointly held a seminar on the Universal Declaration and its importance to youth. The Centre at Sana'a, Amnesty International and the Embassy of the Netherlands sponsored a workshop on human rights, for kindergarten teachers in Yemen. The Centre at Tunis briefed schoolchildren and responded to their enquiries on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

137. The representative of the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Office at Almaty moderated a panel discussion on human rights topics, including the status of ratification of human rights conventions and national human rights legislation. The representative of the Department at the United Nations Office at Minsk gave a lecture at a human rights seminar organized by the Institute of Higher Education.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[3] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/53/36).
[5] The report of the Workshop is contained in E/CN.4/1998/50.

Annex I

Publications issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as at August 1998

A. Fact Sheet Series

No. 1	*Human Rights Machinery*
No. 2 (Rev.1)	*The International Bill of Human Rights*
No. 3 (Rev.1)	*Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights*
No. 4	*Methods of Combating Torture*
No. 5	*Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination*
No. 6 (Rev.2)	*Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*
No. 7	*Communication Procedures*
No. 8	*World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights*
No. 9 (Rev.1)	*The Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
No. 10 (Rev.1)	*The Rights of the Child*
No. 11 (Rev.1)	*Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions*
No. 12	*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*
No. 13	*International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights*
No. 14	*Contemporary Forms of Slavery*
No. 15	*Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee*
No. 16 (Rev.1)	*The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
No. 17	*The Committee against Torture*
No. 18 (Rev.1)	*Minority Rights*
No. 19	*National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights*
No. 20	*Human Rights and Refugees*
No. 21	*The Human Right to Adequate Housing*
No. 22	*Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee*
No. 23	*Harmful Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children*
No. 24	*The Rights of Migrant Workers*
No. 25	*Forced Eviction and Human Rights*

B. Professional Training Series

No. 1	*Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession* (HR/P/TP/1) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.4)
No. 2	*Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections* (HR/P/TP/2) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.5)
No. 3	*Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention* (HR/P/TP/3) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.6)
No. 4	*National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights* (HR/P/TP/4) (Sales No. E.95.XIV.2)
No. 5	*Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police* (HR/P/TP/5) (Sales No. E.96.XIV.5)
No. 5 (Addendum)	*International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement: A Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police* (HR/P/TP/5/Add.1) (Sales No. E.96.XIV.6)

C. Human Rights Study Series

No. 1	*Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.2)
No. 2	*Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.3)
No. 3	*Freedom of the Individual under Law: An Analysis of Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.5)
No. 4	*Status of the Individual and Contemporary International Law: Promotion, Protection and Restoration of Human Rights at National, Regional and International Levels* (Sales No. E.91.XIV.3)
No. 5	*Study on the Rights of Persons belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities* (Sales No. E.91.XIV.2)
No. 6	*Human Rights and Disabled Persons* (Sales No. E.92.XIV.4)
No. 7	*The Right to Adequate Housing* (Sales No. E.96.XIV.3)
No. 8	*Sexual Exploitation of Children* (Sales No. E.96.XIV.7)
No.10	*Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous Peoples* (Sales No. E.97.XIV.3)

D. Note of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

No. 1	*The High Commissioner for Human Rights, an Introduction: Making Human Rights a Reality* (HR/PUB/HCHR/96/1)

E. 1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; basic information kits

No. 1	*1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
No. 2	*Women's Rights the Responsibility of All*
No. 3	*Children's Rights: Creating a Culture of Human Rights*

F. Ad hoc publications

European Workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Past-Present-Future (Milan, Italy, 7–9 September 1988) (HR/PUB/89/1)

The Administration of Justice and Human Rights for East European Countries: Report of a United Nations Training Course (Moscow, 21–25 November 1988) (HR/PUB/89/2)

The Teaching of Human Rights: Report of an International Seminar (Geneva, 5–9 December 1988) (HR/PUB/89/3)

The Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations between Indigenous Peoples and States: Report of a Seminar (Geneva, 16–20 January 1989) (HR/PUB/89/5)

Application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights under the Optional Protocol by the Human Rights Committee (Reprint No.1 (4))

The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (HR/PUB/90/1)

Report of an International Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, 26–28 July 1989) (HR/PUB/90/2)

United Nations Training Course on International Norms and Standards in the Field of Human Rights (Moscow, 27 November–1 December 1989) (HR/PUB/90/6)

Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/90/8)

Manual on Human Rights Reporting (HR/PUB/91/1) (Sales No. E.91.XIV.1)

The Realization of the Right to Development: Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right (Geneva, 8–12 January 1990) (HR/PUB/91/2)

Political, Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Factors contributing to Racism, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid: Report of a Seminar (Geneva, 10 January–14 December 1990) (HR/PUB/91/3)

The First Twenty Years: Progress Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/91/4)

Workshop on International Human Rights Instruments and Reporting Obligations: Preparation of Reports to United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies (Moscow, 26–30 August 1991) (HR/PUB/91/5)

African Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice (Cairo, 8–12 July 1992) (HR/PUB/91/6)

Teaching and Learning about Human Rights: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession (HR/PUB/92/1)

United Nations Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on Human Rights Issues (Jakarta, 26–28 January 1993) (HR/PUB/93/1)

HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: International Guidelines (HR/PUB/98/1) (Sales No.E.98.XIV.1)

G. Other publications

ABC: Teaching Human Rights; Practical activities for primary and secondary schools

United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights (ST/HR/2/Rev.4) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.11)

United Nations Reference Guide in the Field of Human Rights (ST/HR/6) (Sales No. E.93.XIV.4)

Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (vol. I, parts I and II) (ST/HR/1/Rev.5)(Sales No. E.94.XIV.1)

Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments; Regional Instruments, vol. II (ST/HR/1/Rev.5) (Sales No. E.97.XIV.1)

Human Rights: Status of International Instruments (ST/HR/5) (Sales No. E.87.XIV.2)

Human Rights: International Instruments; Chart of Ratifications as at 31 December 1997 (ST/HR/4/Rev.16)

Human Rights Bibliography, 5 vols. (Sales No. GV.E.92.0.16)

Official Records of the Human Rights Committee

Selected decisions of the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol

Human Rights in Action (brochure)

H. Periodicals

Human Rights: A Quarterly Review of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, No. 1, winter 1997/1998

Human Rights: A Quarterly Review of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, No. 2, spring 1998

Human Rights: A Quarterly Review of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, No. 3, summer 1998

Annex II

Language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being made available by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as at August 1998

Africa

Afrikaans
Akuapem Twi
Amharic
Arabic
Attié
Baoulé
Bemba
Bété
Béti
Congo/Kicongo
Dagaare
Dagbani
Dangme
Dioula
Edo-Benin
Efik-Ibibio
English
Ewe/Evé
Fante
Fon
French
Gã
Gonja
Hausa/Haoussa
Igbo
Kabyè
Kamba/Kikamba
Kanuri
Kaonde
Kasem
Kinyarwanda
Kirundi
Kituba
Kpelewo
Krio
Kuyu/Kikuyu
Lingala
Lomwe/Ngulu
Lozi
Luba/Chiluba
Luganda/Ganda
Luhya
Lunda/Chokwe-lunda
Luo
Luvale
Makonde/Konde
Malagasy
Maninka
Mbundu/Kimbundu
Mende
Mooré
Ndebele
Nyamwezi
Nyanja
Oromo
Oshiwambo
Peulh/Pular/Ful
Pidgin English (Nigerian)
Portuguese
Ronga-Tsonga
Rukonzo
Runyankore-Rukiga/ Nkore-kiga
Sango
Senoufo
Shona
Siswati
Somali
Northern Sotho/Pedi/ Sepedi
Southern Sotho/Sotho/ Sesotho/Sutu/Sesuthu
Western Sotho/Tswana/ Setswana
Sukuma
Sussu/Soussou/Sosso
Swahili
Tamazight
Temne
Teso-Turkana
Tigrinya
Tiv
Tonga
Umbundu/Ovimbundu
Wolof
Xhosa
Yoruba
Zulu

North America

English
French
Micmaq
Spanish
Yiddish

Central and South America

Achuar-Shiwiar
Aguaruna
Amahuaca
Amarakaeri
Amuesha-Yanesha
Arabela
Asháninca
Bora
Campa pajonalino
Candoshi-Shapra
Cashibo-Cacataibo
Cashinahua
Chayahuita
Chinanteco
Creole (Haitian, lit.)
Creole (Haitian, pop.)
English
French
Garifuna
Huitoto murui
Kaqchikel
K'iche
Mam
Mapuche/Mapudungun
Matsés
Maya

Mazahua
Mazateco
Miskito
Mixteco
Ñahñú
Nahuatl
Nomatsiguenga
Paez
Pipil
Portuguese
Purhépecha
Q'eqchi
Quechua
Quechua de Ambo-Pasco
Quecha de Ayacucho
Quechua de Cajamarca
Quechua del Callejon de Huaylas
Quechua de Cotahuasi Arequipa
Quechua del Cusco
Quechua de Huamalies Huánuco
Quechua de Margos sur de Dios de Mayo Huánuco
Quechua del Norte de Junin
Quechua de Pomabamba Ancash
Quichua
Sharanahua
Shipibo-Conibo
Spanish
Tenek
Ticuna
Tojol a'b'al
Totonaco
Tseltal
Tzotzil
Urarina
Wayù
Yagua
Zapoteco

Asia

Achinese
Assamese
Balinese
Balochi
Bengali
Bhojpuri
Bikol
Buginese
Burmese/Myanmar
Cebuano
Chinese (Mandarin)
Dzongkha
English
Farsi/Persian
Gujarati
Hiligainon
Hindi
Iloko
Indonesian
Japanese
Javanese
Kannada
Karen (Pwo)
Karen (S'gaw)
Kashmiri
Khmer
Korean
Lao
Madurese
Magahi
Malay/Malais
Malayalam
Marathi
Marwari
Miao
Minangkabau
Mongolian
Nepali/Nepalese
Oriya
Punjabi
Pushtu/Pakhto
Portuguese
Santali
Shan
Sindhi
Sinhala
Sundanese
Tagalog
Tamil
Telugu
Thai
Tibetan
Urdu
Uygur
Vietnamese
Zhuang

Europe

Basque
Breton
Catalan
Corsican
Danish
Dutch
English
Faroese
Finnish
French
Gaelic (Scottish)
Galician
German
Greek
Greenlandic
Icelandic
Irish Gaelic
Italian
Luxembourguese
Maltese
Norwegian
Occitan Auvergnat
Occitan Languedocien
Picard
Polish
Portuguese
Rhaeto-Romance
Sami
Spanish
Swedish
Turkish
Walloon
Welsh

Central and Eastern Europe

Albanian
Armenian
Azeri/Azerbaijani
Bosnian (Cyrillic)
Bosnian (Latin)
Bulgarian
Byelorussian

Chechen
Croatian
Czech
Estonian
Even
Georgian
Hungarian/Magyar
Kazakh
Kyrgyz
Latvian
Lithuanian
Macedonian
Romani/Roma
Romanian
Russian
Serbian (Cyrillic)
Serbian (Latin)
Slovak
Slovenian
Sorbian
Tadjik
Turkmen
Ukrainian
Uzbek (Cyrillic)
Uzbek (Latin)
Vlach
Yiddish
Yukagir

Middle East

Arabic
Farsi/Persian
French
Hebrew
Kurdish

Oceania

Chamorro
English
French
Maori
Marshallese
Palauan
Ponapean
Tahitian
Trukese
Yapese

Constructed and ancient languages

Esperanto
Interlingua
Latin
Sanskrit